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[THE SECOND EDITION.]

COPIES

OF

ORIGINAL LETTERS

FROM THE ARMY OF

GENERAL BONAPARTE,

IN

EGYPT.

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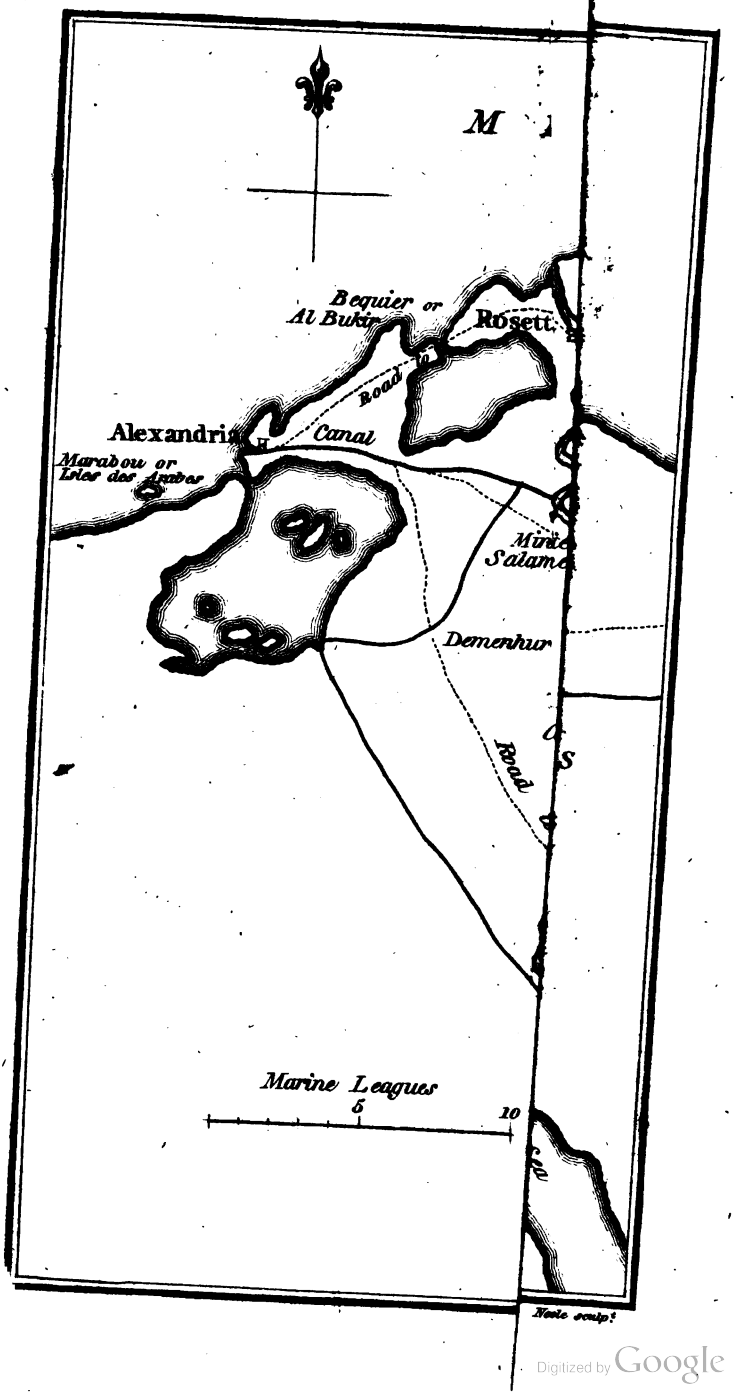
Chart of LOWER EGYPT, adjacent.



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COPIES
OF
ORIGINAL LETTERS
FROM THE ARMY OF
GENERAL BONAPARTE
IN
E G Y P T,
INTERCEPTED
BY THE FLEET
UNDER THE COMMAND OF
ADMIRAL LORD NELSON.

WITH AN

ENGLISH TRANSLATION.

THE SECOND EDITION.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR J. WRIGHT, OPPOSITE OLD BOND STREET, PICCADILLY.
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INTRODUCTION.

THE Correspondence, of which the following Letters make a part, was intercepted at different periods, by the Turkish and English ships of war. It consists of Official and Private Letters, whose contents, perhaps, like those of a thousand others, which have, at various times, fallen into the hands of our cruizers, would have remained a secret to all but Government, had not the French, by holding out, first, a false account of the motive of this famous Expedition, and then, by spreading the most absurd and exaggerated accounts of its success; rendered it necessary to undeceive Europe, (still trembling at the tale), by proving from their own statements, that what began in wickedness and fraud, was likely to terminate in wretchedness and despair.

The Publication being thus determined upon, the next step was to make such a selection from the voluminous Correspondence in the hands of Government, as, without gratifying an idle curiosity, or indulging a prurient inclination for scandal

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and intrigue, should yet leave nothing to be desired with respect to the real situation of the Army in Egpyt; its views and successes, its miseries and disappointments. For this purpose, every thing that was not illustrative of one or other of those objects was suppressed: all private Letters, unless intimately connected with the end in view, were passed over; and even those of Bonaparte (which have been so shamefully misrepresented, and commented upon by those fervid champions of decency, the Opposition Writers*), though not strictly and ab-

* The following paragraphs are taken from the *Morning Chronicle*. We might have produced a hundred more of the same kind, but these we think will be sufficient to convince the reader, of the "superior delicacy" of that paper. When he has considered them well, he will not be disinclined, perhaps, to felicitate the French ladies, on the letters of their lovers and friends having luckily escaped such "delicate," and honourable hands!

"It is not very creditable to the generosity of Office, that the private letters from Bonaparte and his Army to their friends in France, which were intercepted, should be published. It derogates from the character of a nation to descend to such gossiping. One of these letters is from Bonaparte to his Brother, complaining of the profligacy of his wife; another from young Beauharnois, expressing his hopes that his dear *Mamma* is not so wicked as she is represented! Such are the precious secrets which, to breed mischief in private families, is to be published in French and English!"

Nov. 24.

"After the public have been so long agitated with anxiety and speculation respecting Bonaparte and his Expedition,

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solutely private, yet containing nothing that could materially interest or inform the public, were laid aside with the rest. We trust that we have not admitted any thing that can raise a blush on the cheek of our readers, either for themselves or for us.

We might here close our Introduction, but as the Egyptian Expedition has awakened curiosity, and been the theme of much wonder, and applause, and error, and misrepresentation; we do not think we shall render an unacceptable service to the reader, by enlarging a little on the subject.

The French have long turned their eyes towards Egypt. The sanguine disposition of their Consuls in the Levant, had ministered with admirable effect, to the credulity, and avarice, and ambition, of this restless nation, by assuring them that Egypt was the Paradise of the East, the key of the treasures of the Indies; easy to be seized, and still more easy to

they are at length to be gratified with the scandal and intrigue of which the private Letters from the General and his Officers are full." [*Nov.* 25.

"The *private* correspondence of Bonaparte's Officers, is a curious specimen of *public* intelligence. It reminds us of the weak and impolitic Ministry who persecuted WILKES. When their fund of malice was nearly exhausted, they gave out that he had written an *indecent poem*, which certainly has as much to do with the question of *general warrants*, as Madame Bonaparte's *chastity* has to do with her husband's Expedition through Egypt!" [*Nov.* 26.

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be kept! There was not a Frenchman under the *old* regimen, who was not fully persuaded of the truth of all this; and certainly they have lost nothing of their ambition, their avarice, and their credulity, under the *new*.

What plans the Monarchy might have devised for gaining possession of this "Paradise," we know not. It could not hope to effect it by force.—But the present rulers of France, who have trampled on the powers of the Continent too long, and with too much impunity, to think it necessary to manage them now, could have no apprehensions of resistance to their measures, and were not likely to be scrupulous in the choice of means, to effect whatever purpose they had in view.

Egypt, however, though said and believed to be a rich country, promised no immediate supplies of plunder; and the project for seizing it would still have remained in the port-folio of Citizen Talleyrand, had not a circumstance happened that made its speedy adoption a measure of necessity.

Every one knows that the Directory long since engaged to make a free gift to the army, of a thousand million livres, at the conclusion of a general peace. This engagement, like many others, it seemed to have forgotten; till the necessity of attaching the troops to their interests, and thus enabling them to perfect the Revolution of the 18th Fructidor, made it necessary for the Triumvirate to renew their pro-

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mise, and to revive the languid expectations of the army.

None contributed more to the success of this fatal day than the army of Italy, which, to the eternal disgrace of Bonaparte, was permitted to overawe the councils, and to assume to itself the whole power of the state.

Such a service could not be overlooked: their claim to a portion of the milliard became doubly valid, and as the war in Italy was now supposed to be at an end, thousands of them returned to France to claim it.

Here began the difficulties of the Directory. They had no money to give; but it was not expedient to confess it: and the expedition to Egypt was, therefore, brought forward, as an excellent expedient for quieting the present clamour, and providing for forty thousand veteran troops, inured to plunder, and impatient of controul; who were too sensible of their merits, to be quietly laid aside; and too urgent in their demands, to be cajoled with empty promises.

Hence arose the expedition to Egypt. The plunder of the Venitian docks and arsenals, had fortunately furnished them with a vast quantity of naval stores, and with several ships of the line, frigates, &c. With the former, they fitted out the vessels in the port of Toulon; and they collected transports from every quarter. While these prepa-

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rations were going on, the cupidity and ardour of the troops were artfully inflamed by ambiguous hints of an expedition that was to eclipse, in immediate advantages, the boasted conquests of Cortes and Pizarro.

To promote the farce (for such we are persuaded it was), artists of all kinds, chymists, botanists, members of the pyro-technical school in prodigious numbers, and we know not what quantities of people calling themselves *Savans*, were collected from every part of France, and driven to Toulon in shoals.—When all these were safely embarked, Bonaparte assembled the Italian army, (amounting to 22,000 men), and after gravely promising them on his honour, which he observed had ever been sacred, that they should each receive on their return money enough to purchase six acres and a half of good land, took them on board, and tranquilly proceeded to bury them all in Egypt.

On his route he collected near twenty thousand more of the army of Italy—sturdy beggars, who might have disquieted the Directory if they had been suffered to remain in Europe, and who will now contribute with their fortunate comrades, to fatten the vultures of Grand Cairo.

We shall not stop to notice the capture, as it is called, of Malta,* nor the various gambols that

* That event had been secured before Bonaparte left Toulon, by the intrigues and largesses of Poussielgue: these

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were played by this unwieldy armament in the Mediterranean, but having conducted it in safety to Alexandria, return to make a few miscellaneous observations on its outset, supposed destination, &c.

The first circumstance that strikes us, is the extreme ignorance of the French, with regard to the country they were going to desolate and destroy. They had had connections with its ports for ages, and yet they appear to have known no more of its interior, than the inhabitants of the moon. This want of knowledge was universal—from the Commander in Chief * to the meanest soldier in the army, all was darkness, and blind confidence in the blindest of guides!

The " *Savans*" were not a whit better informed than the rest—like Phaëton,

" They hop'd, perhaps, to meet with pleasing woods,
" And stately fanes, and cities fill'd with gods :—"

and like him too, we imagine, they have found a general conflagration, and a river!

Now we have mentioned these men, it may not be amiss to inquire into the services the general

have been since laid open by the Bailli Teignie, and others; and made the subject of a formal accusation against the Grand Master Hompesch, by the Knights who have taken refuge in Germany, Russia, &c.

* In a letter of Bonaparte's to the Directory; dated July 6th, he says, " this country is any thing but what travellers, and story tellers represent it to be."

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literature of Europe is likely to derive from their exertions; services, be it remembered, for which the Directory, who *forced* them on board, have *already* received the felicitation of all the "friends of liberty."

The inquiry will be short. All the mention we find of them, from the hour of their embarkation to the present, is contained in Berthier's letter to the Consuls of the Roman Republic. "The *Savans* Monge, Bertolet, Boursienne, &c." says he, "fought with the greatest courage; they did not quit the General's side during any part of the action, and they proved by their exertions, that in combatting THE ENEMIES OF THEIR COUNTRY,* every Frenchman is a soldier," &c.

Thus we find that the "enlightened geniuses of the eighteenth century," who were to explore the construction of the Pyramids, to dive into the Catacombs, to wind through the mazes of the sacred labyrinth, to dig up the mystic volumes of Hermes, and, in a word, to roam "with free foot" from the

* The cant of the French is even more shocking than their enormities. They invade a friendly country, which they wantonly devote to pillage and devastation; and the leaders of this ferocious horde of savages have the detestable insolence to call the unoffending people whom they are exterminating for the crime of endeavouring to protect their lives and properties, and who are utterly and alike ignorant of them and their sanguinary employers—"THE ENEMIES OF FRANCE."

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Cataracts to the seven mouths of the Nile: were become mere men of blood, obliged to cling to the troops for protection, and unable to advance a single step to the right or left, beyond the reach of the musquetry or cannon of the army!

But the imbecillity displayed in the outset of this strange expedition, is not more extraordinary than the obstinacy with which it has been held up to the admiration of Europe. Either ignorance, or fear, or Jacobinism, has been always at hand—to suggest a greatness of plan, where there was little, in fact, but blind hazard—to whisper a combination of means amidst the want of every thing, and to promise infallible success to men whose every step was attended with destruction and despair!

While the army was yet on its way to the place of its destination, the old plans of the French Government were in every mouth; and the wisdom was loudly applauded which was to attach the Beys to the invader, crush the dominion of the Porte, and secure the country for ever to the "Great Nation."

Bonaparte arrives, and reverses the whole scheme. The Beys are now to be crushed, because they alone have the power to resist: and the sovereignty of Constantinople is to be upheld, because it is inefficient. The applause was louder than before! "Better and better still," cried the sagacious discoverers of deep design in all the bedlam tricks of

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France; "that country will gain more this way than t'other—"Vive la République!"

Again, when it was found that no impressions but those of hatred and hostility, were made on the natives of Egypt, and that the conqueror barely held the ground on which his army halted, we were suddenly made acquainted with another and a greater scheme; which we were seriously assured was the only genuine one, and which could not fail of success! What was not done in Egypt, might be done in Persia. The inhabitants of the southern coasts of that country were opportunely discovered to have the primitive religion of the Arabs, before it was infected with Mahometanism; and with them, "through the means of their venerable Patriarch," Bonaparte, it was known, had long since been in correspondence. The clue of the mighty maze which had so much puzzled mankind, was at length discovered! Arabia was to be restored to liberty and happiness, by the arms of France, acting on one side of it, and by these innumerable and faithful auxiliaries, on the other. The rest was plain enough. Arabia being once organized, and in possession of a Directory and two Councils, a free passage to India was afforded, of course, through Mekran, the region of friends and philosophers, and the "tyrant of the sea," driven with disgrace from Calcutta!

It would be superfluous to send our readers to

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any author of credit, for a refutation of all this absurdity; which yet has been dwelt on, by the friends of France, with complacency and delight—but if they should happen to look into Niehbur, they will find, that there really are some wild Arabs, a poor, and miserable, and half naked people, who wander up and down the coasts of Arabia Proper, and live on putrid fish! These Ichyophagi are the enlightened savages, who, in conjunction with Bonaparte, are to diffuse the knowledge of liberty and virtue through the Eastern world!

But it is not only the profundity of the General's plans of conquest, that is so highly and so justly celebrated: his capacity of legislating for the countries he subdues, receives an equal share of applause; and his admirers would think they insulted his reputation, if they forbore to mention, that he added the political sagacity of Solon, to the military science of Alexander.

The reader will find (No. X.) a Letter from Bonaparte, containing, what he calls, his "Provisional Organization of Egypt;" if he will look carefully into this, and into another curious Paper (Appendix, No. VIII.) he will be inclined, we think, to abate something of his admiration for this new Solon.

The tenaciousness of the Eastern people for their customs is proverbially great; yet they are to change them at a word! The simplicity and invariable uni-

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formity of their dress is no less striking; ages pass away, and find it still the same; yet they are now, in obedience to they know not what orders, to trick themselves suddenly out in tri-coloured shawls and scarfs, and ribands, like the tawdry Jack Puddings of the Executive Directory.

All the complicated relations which bind the society among which the General is thrown, are either unknown or unheeded by him; one or two general and barren provisions are made to represent all those moral habits and local regulations which, with an infinite variety, distinguished the former government of this people.

But a remedy is at hand: if his laws will not do of themselves, force will speedily make them effectual. The military, under the command of a French officer, are directed to be called in on every occasion (p. 71.); this is the grand specific for all! after a disgraceful and futile attempt at civil wisdom, the whole is resolved into violence, and the code of the legislator is thrust down the throat of the people by the bayonet of the Conqueror!

But what could be expected from a man who had already betrayed his incapacity in similar attempts in Europe? Let his stupid admirers (for we must now be serious), let his stupid admirers call to mind his Italian "organizations" (the worthy prototypes of his Egyptian ones), repeatedly changed by himself, and the instant he was out of sight disdainfully

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changed by others. There too was the same poverty of conception. From his travelling cloke-bag, he privately drew out the model of all legislation—the Constitution of 1795. This was copied for great and small, and applied in all situations, and to every people! Antiquity knew nothing of this sweeping mode of legislation; they shewed a condescension to the different customs and prejudices of those who fell under their management; and a cluster of small and contiguous powers were judiciously and humanely indulged with the possession of those laws which had long been dear to them, and which removed them from each other in principles and manners, as far as from "the center to "the pole."

But Italy, which, in the judgment of our philosophists, had once exhibited this weakness, was now to be taught a better lesson. All moral considerations were to be superseded by the supreme wisdom of the cloke-bag; and Republics, Monarchies, and whatever else might be the distinctions of Aristocratic government, were to be swept away with the besom of 1795. What shall be the Constitution of Genoa? A Directory and two Councils. What of Mantua? A Directory and two Councils. What again of Bolognia? You are very tiresome: look into page — of the Constitution of 1795; what does it say? A Directory and two Councils. Thus it is. *Ventum est ad summum fortunæ*; and we make

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laws quicker and better than the ancients—*Achivis doctius unctis!* One undistinguishing rule domineers over all the varied application of political wisdom, and Minos, and Solon, and Lycurgus, are vanquished by a single roll of paper triumphantly carried through Europe, and speaking alike (whether intelligibly or not) "to all people, and nations, and languages and tongues."

From the legislative pretensions of Bonaparte, we might now descend to the consideration of the fraud, and hypocrisy, and blasphemy, and impiety, and cruelty, and injustice, which he has never ceased to display since the commencement of this famous Expedition; but we are better pleased to leave them to the faithful page of the historian, which we are satisfied will one day hold them up to the just contempt and execration of all mankind.

We shall indulge ourselves, however, with an observation or two on his cruelty. We select this vice, because Bonaparte has been celebrated by the ignorant and malevolent of this country, for nothing so much as for his humanity! One man, of whom we should say, if we could for a moment believe in the metempsychosis, that the spirit of Bishop Bonner had taken full possession, has had the consummate folly to affirm, that Bonaparte, "his consolation and his triumph," preferred the preservation of one citizen, to the melancholy glory of a thousand victories.

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Where did this scribbler, who from his study insults the feelings of his countrymen, and boasts of his satisfaction in the success of their enemies, collect his proofs of the tender concern of Bonaparte for the life of a Citizen? Was it at the bridge of Lodi, where he sacrificed six thousand of them to the vanity of forcing a pass which he might have turned without the loss of a man? Was it—? but why multiply questions, when there is not, perhaps, a reader of a common newspaper in Europe (this pestilent foe to the honour of his country excepted), who does not know that Bonaparte has wantonly spilt more blood than any Attila of ancient or modern times, who, with the same means, has had merely the same ends to effect.

We may, perhaps, at some future time, take up this topic at greater length; meanwhile we shall content ourselves with referring to Boyer's Letter (No. XXII.), and return to the subject of the Expedition.

We have called it a farce—we might, with more justice, have called it a tragedy—It is, we are persuaded (but here we beg to be understood as speaking only our private and individual opinion) a deep-laid plan, of which the only actors in the secret are the Directory and Bonaparte, and, perhaps, Berthier. The main plot was to get rid of the Italian army: the subordinate one to conquer and plunder what they could: if Egypt fell—so much

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the better; if it did not—so much the better still. The denouement was skilfully effected either way, and the Government equally relieved!

But why then all this expence, this hazard of their sole remaining fleet, this exposure of their best and most skilful officers, of their profoundest philosophers, of their most scientific men of every kind?—These we confess are weighty and rational objections, and if we could not answer them to our own satisfaction, we would without hesitation, renounce the opinion we have given, and adopt that of our opponents in its stead.

We begin, then, with premising that the Directory do not set much store by their *Savans*; they have exported several head of them to Cayenne, a spot still worse than Egypt; and made a great consumption of them at home, in noyades, fusillades, &c. &c.—these, therefore, may be safely put out of the question.

With respect to the 'expence'—to say nothing of the hopes of repaying themselves by the plunder of Malta, and Grand Cairo;* it was surely worth something to effect the important ends they had in view. The "hazard of their fleet," indeed, seems a more serious matter; but let it be remembered, that the Directory had no idea that we could pos-

* This was not so chimerical an idea as may be imagined; the l'Orient had more than half a million sterling in her, when she blew up.

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sibly send a squadron into the Mediterranean (a sea which we had then abandoned for near two years), strong enough to attack it; and here let us pay the tribute of applause so justly due to the secrecy, and skill, and promptitude, with which this most important measure was effected.

With regard to the "exposure of their best officers"—and here we make our chief stand—we say, that the Government had no such design. They were sent, it is true, because the army would not move without them; but we have proof, little short of mathematical certainty, that they were speedily meant to be recalled to France. It appears from some of Bonaparte's letters, that he had not the slightest idea of wintering in Egypt. "I shall pass," says he, "the cold months in Burgundy, where I wish you would look out some little place for me"—Here, then, is the solution of the whole enigma. Bonaparte was to leave his devoted followers to moulder away in the undisturbed possession of Egypt, and under some plausible pretence to return to Europe with his ablest officers, and with, perhaps, a handful of the most ductile and tractable of his troops.

This plan, and no other, accounts for his keeping the fleet on the coast, in spite of the remonstrances of Brueys, and the evident danger to which it was exposed—it was to carry back the "Conqueror of Egypt" in triumph to France;

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and the Admiral, who was wholly unacquainted with his design, fell a sacrifice at last, to a perfidy which he could not comprehend.

THE FIRST OF AUGUST ruined all these fine-spun schemes; and Bonaparte fell into the toils he was spreading for others! All return is now impossible, except as a fugitive, or a prisoner. He may enter into the chambers of the Pyramids, and hold conversations on the tomb of Cheops, with Imans, and with Muftis; he may organize, and conquer, and plant botanic gardens, and establish menageries; he may pass from the Delta to the Thebaid, and from the Thebaid to the Delta, with his train of tri-coloured Cheiks, and be hailed as the ALI BONAPARTE of the country—all is still but folly: his final destruction can neither be averted nor delayed; and his unseasonable mummeries will but serve to take away all dignity from the catastrophe of the drama; and render his fall at once terrible and ridiculous.

Before our readers accuse us of being too sanguine in our expectations, or too precipitate in our judgment, let them carefully peruse the following Correspondence. They will find every officer in the army dissatisfied with his situation, and impatient to return to France: execrating the climate and the country, and lamenting the folly that led him to embark in so wild, and absurd, and hopeless an expedition. They will find the whole army

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without tents, baggage, or ammunition, without medicines, or wine, or brandy; with few of the necessaries, and none of the comforts of life.

This WAS a faithful picture of their situation before the destruction of their fleet—what IT IS since, they may easily conjecture. If, then, they will add to this accumulation of misery and despair, the inveterate hostility of the Arabs, the treachery of the Egyptians, and the destructive warfare of the Mameloucs, together with the nauseous and peculiar diseases of the country, the intolerable heats, and pestilential winds, the devouring myriads of venomous insects, and the stench and putrefaction of ten thousand stagnant pools, they will not, we imagine, be much inclined to dispute the justice of our conclusions.

With respect to the Letters we have given, they were selected, as far as was consistent with our plan, with an eye to variety. They are, with few exceptions, extremely well written, and do credit to the epistolary talents of the authors: nor is this their highest merit; they are friendly and affectionate; and we see with pleasure that the cold-blooded rant of a detestable and impious philosophy, has not yet succeeded in extinguishing the social feelings!

One word more. We had very different motives from those of raising a laugh, when we admitted into the collection, the Letters of Guillot, Le Turcq, &c. We had it in contemplation to shew, that

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from the highest to the lowest, from the best informed to the most illiterate, the sentiment of discontent and disgust is universal; that, far from harbouring a thought of sitting down in Egypt, not an individual in the army (so far, at least, as has come to our knowledge) but turns with fond anxiety towards home, and thinks, with horror and despair, of a residence in this "terrestrial Paradise," even for a few weeks!

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COPIES

OF

ORIGINAL LETTERS.

No. I.

Alexandrie, le 18 *Messidor, an* 6.

Au Citoyen JOSEPH BONAPARTE, *Député au Conseil des Cinq Cens, Rue des Saints Pères, No.* 1219, *Fauxbourg Germain, à Paris.*

NOUS sommes en cette ville depuis le 14, mon cher frère; elle a été prise d'assaut; je vais vous détailler nos opérations, non en commentateur, mais telles que j'ai pu les suivre.

Le 13, à la pointe du jour, nous decouvrimes les côtes d'Afrique, que l'avant garde avoit signalées la veille; bientôt nous fumes à la hauteur des Islès des Arabes, à 2 lieues d'Alexandrie, et la frégate la Junon, qui avoit été expédiée pour amener le Consul de France de cette ville, nous joignit.

Celui-ci nous apprit qu'une escadre Anglaise de 14 vaisseaux de ligne, dont deux à trois ponts, avoit passé à vue d'Alexandrie, y avoit envoyé des lettres pour le Con-

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sul Anglais, et avoit appris la prise de Malte aux négociants ; elle a fait ensuite route sur Alexandrette, comptant sans doute que nous y avions été débarquer pour nous rendre aux Indes par Bassora. Cette escadre avoit été en effet signalée par la Justice après notre départ de Malte : elle a eu la gaucherie de ne pas nous trouver. Les Anglais doivent être furieux. Il faut être extrêmement hardi et heureux pour traverser une escadre nombreuse avec des forces moindres, un convoi de quatre cens petits bâtiments, et enlever en chemin une place telle que Malte, moitié par force et moitié par négociation.

Jusqu'à présent j'ai cru que la fortune pouvoit abandonner mon frère, aujourd'hui je crois qu'il réussira toujours si les troupes gardent un peu de l'esprit national qui les anime si bien.

Les Mamelouks savoient depuis trois semaines par des bâtiments de commerce expédiés de Marseille, les détails de notre embarquement ; voyant paroître les Anglais, ils crurent que c'étoit notre flotte ; de manière que lorsque nous parûmes réellement le 13, ils étoient prêts à nous recevoir. La mer étoit grosse ce jour-là, les marins ne vouloient point que le débarquement eût lieu. Les vaisseaux mouillèrent à deux lieues au large. La journée se passa en préparatifs, et enfin à onze heures du soir nous débarquâmes sur de petits canots avec une mer et un vent très-orageux.

Nous marchâmes toute la nuit avec deux mille hommes d'infanterie, et le lendemain à la pointe du jour nous investimes Alexandrie, après avoir chassé différents détachements de cavalerie ; les ennemis se défendoient courageusement, l'artillerie qu'ils avoient sur les tours et les murailles étoit mal servie, mais leur mous-

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queterie étoit très-bonne. Ces gens-là ne savent pas broncher, ils donnent ou reçoivent la mort sur leurs ennemis. Cependant la première enceinte, c'est à dire, celle de la ville des Arabes, fut enlevée. Bientôt après, la seconde, malgré les feux des maisons. Les forts qui sont de l'autre côté de la ville sur les bords de la mer furent investis, et le soir capitulèrent.

Depuis le 14 on est occupé au débarquement des troupes, de l'artillerie, et des effets. Le Général Désaix est sur le Nil à Demenhour. Les autres devoient le suivre.

Le lieu du débarquement est à deux lieues d'ici à la tour de Marabout, ou les Isles des Arabes. Les deux premiers jours, il y eut beaucoup de traîneurs que la cavalerie Mamelouk et Arabes harcelèrent ; je crois que nous avons perdu 100 tués et autant de blessés. Les Généraux Kleber, Menou, et Lescalle ont été blessés.

Je vous envoye la proclamation aux habitants du pays, et trois autres à l'armée. Elle a fait un effet merveilleux ; les Arabes Bédouins, ennemis des Mamelouks, et qui sont, à proprement parler, des voleurs intrépides, dès qu'ils l'eurent reçue, nous ont rendu une trentaine de prisonniers, et se sont offerts pour combattre avec nous les Mamelouks. On les a très-bien traités. Ce sont des gens invincibles, habitants des déserts brûlants, montés sur les chevaux les plus légers du monde, et extrêmement braves. Ils habitent avec leurs femmes et leurs enfans des camps volants, qui changent toutes les nuits. Ce sont des sauvages horribles ; cependant ils connoissent l'or et l'argent, il en faut bien peu pour causer leur admiration. Ils aiment l'or, mon cher frère, ils passent leur vie à l'arracher aux Européens qui tombent en leurs mains, et pourquoi faire ? pour continuer ce genre de vie et l'apprendre à leurs enfans. Oh,

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Jean Jacques, que ne peut-il voir ces hommes, qu'il appelle " les hommes de la nature !" il frémiroit de honte et de surprise d'avoir pu les admirer.

Adieu, mon cher frère, donnez moi de vos nouvelles. j'ai souffert beaucoup dans la traversée ; ce climat-ci m'accable, il nous changera tous. Quand nous reviendrons on nous reconnoîtra de loin. Je suis un peu malade, et obligé de rester ici quelques jours. Tout le monde part demain. Adieu, je vous embrasse de tout mon cœur. Rappellez moi au souvenir de Julie, Caroline, &c. et au législateur Lucien ; son voyage avec nous lui eût été fort utile ; nous voyons plus en deux jours que les voyageurs ordinaires en deux ans.

Il y a ici de remarquable la colonne de Pompée, les obélisques de Cléopatre, le lieu où étoient ses bains, beaucoup de ruines, un temple souterrein, des catacombes, quelques mosquées, et quelques eglises ; mais ce qui l'est plus que tout cela, ce sont le caractère et les mœurs des habitants. Ils sont d'un sang-froid étonnant. Rien ne les emeut, la mort est pour eux, ce qu'est le voyage d'Amérique pour les Anglais.

Leur extérieur est imposant : nos phisionomies les plus caractérisées, sont des mines d'enfants en comparaison des leurs ; elles ont plus que nous une variété étonnante. Les femmes surtout couvertes d'un drap, dont elles s'envelloppent et se couvrent la tête jusqu'au sourcil ; un linge (pour les femmes du peuple), leur couvre le visage depuis le front, ne laissant que les ouvertures des yeux, de manière que pour peu que le linge soit flétri, elles font peur.

Leurs forts et leur artillerie sont d'un ridicule achevé ; ils n'ont point de serrures, point de croisées. Enfin ils sont dans l'aveuglement des premiers tems.

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Oh! combien de misanthropes seroient convertis si le hazard les jettoit au milieu des déserts de l'Arabie

Adieu, mon cher frère, tout à vous,

J. C. BONAPARTE.

P. S. Je vous prie, mon cher frère, de faire donner de mes nouvelles à la citoyenne Coupry, ma vieille et ancienne hôtesse, rue St. Honoré, No. 27, près le passage des Feuillans; lui dire que je n'ai pas eu le temps de lui écrire, et que je me rappelle à son souvenir.

TRANSLATION.

Alexandria, July 6th, 1798.

To Citizen JOSEPH BONAPARTE, *Deputy to the Council of Five Hundred, &c.*

WE have been in this city, my dear brother, now four days; it was taken by assault. I will attempt to give you some account of our operations; not as a professional man, but as they appeared to me.

At day-break, on the 1st of July, we discovered the coast of Africa; which had been seen, and announced to us the evening before by signals. We were presently off the *Isles des Arabes*, about two leagues from Alexandria, where the *Juno* frigate, which had been dispatched to bring the French Consul on board, rejoined us.

We learnt from the Consul that an English squadron

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of fourteen sail of the line (of which two were three deckers,) had appeared off Alexandria, sent letters on shore to the English Consul, and informed the merchants there of the capture of Malta; that it had then made sail for Alexandretta, concluding, as it was supposed, that we had gone there to disembark our forces, and proceed to India by the way of Bassora.

This squadron had indeed been seen by the *Justice*, after our departure from Malta; and yet it had the aukwardness, or the stupidity to miss us! The English must be quite furious. It required, I think, no common degree of courage and good fortune, to run through a numerous fleet, with inferior forces, a convoy of four hundred transports; and to capture on our passage, partly by force, and partly by negotiation, such a place as Malta.

Till this day I had always a fancy that fortune might one time or other turn her back upon my brother: now I am persuaded, that she will never desert him, provided the troops retain but a little of that national spirit which has hitherto animated them.

The Mameloucs had been informed three weeks before, by some merchant vessels belonging to Marseilles, of the embarkation of our troops;—when, therefore, they saw the English fleet, they concluded it was ours, so that when we actually appeared, they were prepared for us. The sea ran so high that day that the officers of the marines would not permit the troops to disembark. The vessels therefore came to an anchor about two leagues from the shore: the day was spent in preparations; and at length, about eleven at night, we were put on board the boats of the fleet, with a rough sea, and a very blowing wind.

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We marched that night with two thousand* infantry, and at break of day invested Alexandria, after driving into the town several small detachments of cavalry. The enemy defended themselves like men; the artillery which they had planted on the walls was wretchedly served, but their musquetry was excellent. These people have no idea of children's play: they either kill or are killed. The first inclosure, however, that is to say, that of the city of the Arabs, was carried; and soon after the second, in spite of the fire from the houses. The forts which are on the coast, on the other side of the city, were then invested; and in the evening capitulated.

Since the 2d of July we have been engaged in disembarking the troops, the artillery, and the baggage. General Désaix is at Demanhur, on the Nile; the rest of the army is to follow him.

The place where we disembarked is about two leagues from hence, at the tower of Marabout, or *Isles des Arabes*. The two first days we had a number of stragglers cut off by the Arab and Mamelouc cavalry. I imagine that we have lost about one hundred killed, and as many wounded. The Generals Kleber, Menou, and Lescalle are wounded.

I send you the proclamation† to the inhabitants of the country, and three others to the army. The first has produced an effect altogether astonishing. The Bedouins, enemies of the Mameloucs, and who, properly speaking, are neither more nor less than intrepid robbers, sent us

* This is inaccurate. It appears from several of the letters, that a great portion of the army was engaged in the attack on Alexandria.

† See the APPENDIX.

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back, as soon as they had read it, thirty of our people whom they had made prisoners, with an offer of their services against the Mameloucs. We have treated them kindly. They are an invincible people, inhabiting a burning desert, mounted on the fleetest horses in the world, and full of courage. They live with their wives and children in flying camps, which are never pitched two nights together in the same place. They are horrible savages, and yet they have some notion of gold and silver! a small quantity of it serves to excite their admiration. Yes, my dear brother, they love gold; they pass their lives in extorting it from such Europeans as fall into their hands; and for what purpose!—for continuing the course of life which I have described, and for teaching it to their children. O, Jean Jacques! why was it not thy fate to see those men, whom thou call'st "the men of nature?" thou would'st sink with shame, thou would'st startle with horror at the thought of having once admired them!

Adieu, my dear brother, let me hear from you soon. I suffered a great deal on our passage; this climate kills me; we shall be so altered that you will discover the change at a league's distance.

I am not well at present, and shall be obliged to stay here a few days longer:* every body else goes to-morrow. Adieu, I embrace you with the sincerest affection. Remember me to Julia, Caroline, &c. and to the legislator† Lucien. He might have sailed with us to advan-

* It appears from *Boursienne's* letter (see No. 14.) that he was still there on the 27th of July.

† This word is marked in the original, and evidently alludes to a piece of private history.

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tage: we see more in two days than common travellers in two years.

The remarkable objects here are Pompey's column, the obelisks of Cleopatra, the spot where her baths once stood, a number of ruins, a subterraneous temple, some catacombs, mosques, and a few churches. But what is still more remarkable, is the character and manners of the inhabitants. They are of a sangfroid absolutely astonishing. Nothing agitates them; and death itself is to them, what a voyage to America is to the English.*

Their exterior is imposing. The most marked physiognomies amongst us, are mere children's countenances compared to theirs. The women wrap themselves up in a piece of cloth, which passes over their head, and descends in front to the eyebrows. The poorer sort cover the whole of their face with linen, leaving only two small apertures for the eyes; so that if this strange veil happens to be a little shrivelled, or stained, they look like so many hob-goblins.

Their forts and their artillery are the most ridiculous things in nature: they have not even a lock, nor a window to their houses; in a word, they are still involved in all the blindness of the earliest ages.

Oh! how many misanthropes would be converted if chance should conduct them into the midst of the deserts of Arabia.

Adieu, my dear brother.
Your's entirely,

L. BONAPARTE.

* Meaning, probably, a matter of little importance;—but an expression nearly resembling this, is proverbial amongst them.

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P. S. I beg, my dear brother, that you will let the female citizen Coupry, my good old landlady, *Rue St. Honoré, No. 27, près le passage des Feuillans*, know how and where I am: tell her that I have not yet had time to write to her, and that I desired to be remembered to her.

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No. II.

Au Mouillage d'Aboukir, le 20 Messidor, An 6.

Nous voici, mon cher Jaubert, sur les côtes de l'Egypte; nos braves ont entamé son territoire, et tout nous promet qu'avant peu de tems, au despotisme imprévoyant des Mamelouks, et à l'apathie des Egyptiens, auront succédé un gouvernement créateur, et une émulation jusqu'à présent inconnue parmi les habitants.

Nous sommes maîtres d'Alexandrie: nos troupes ont occupé en passant Aboukir, ont pris Rosette, et ont conséquemment en leur pouvoir, une des principales bouches du Nil. Je suppose que tu as sous les yeux la carte et le Voyage de Savary, ou de quelqu'autre.

Le 13 Messidor, à six heures du matin, nous étions à six lieues d'Alexandrie. La frégate la Junon eut ordre d'aller à l'entrée du port remettre au Consul Français une lettre ostensible, mais avec mission expresse d'emmener le Consul et tous les Français qui se trouveroient dans la ville. Tout y étoit en combustion; depuis deux mois on parloit de la descente des Français, on s'y étoit mis en défense *à la manière des Turc.*

L'apparition qui avoit eu lieu le 10 d'une escadre Anglaise de 14 vaisseaux, que le Gouverneur d'Alexandrie s'obstinoit à regarder comme Français, avoit redoublé les allarmes de la ville, et rendu de plus en plus critique la position des habitans Français. Le Consul obtint cependant trois heures pour se rendre à bord de la

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Junon ; cette frégate l'amena sur l'Orient ; on sentit la nécessité d'agir promptement, soit pour arracher Alexandrie aux Anglais, soit pour mettre notre escadre à couvert d'un combat qui eût été très-inégal dans le désordre d'un premier mouillage sur un fond inconnu.

La flotte Anglaise a joué de malheur, elle nous a manqué sous la Sardaigne, elle a manqué ensuite le convoi de Civita Vecchia, composé de 57 bâtiments, et portant 7000 hommes d'Italie. Elle n'est arrivée devant Malte que cinq jours après que nous avons quitté cette Ile ; elle est arrivée devant Alexandrie deux jours trop tôt pour nous y rencontrer. Il est à presumer qu'elle est montée jusqu'à Alexandrette, croyant que c'est là que doit s'opérer le débarquement pour la conquête de l'Inde. Nous la verrons enfin, mais nous sommes mouillés de manière à tenir tête à une flotte double à la nôtre.

Telle a été pourtant la position critique où nous nous sommes trouvés le 13 au matin, que quelque prompt que fut le débarquement, nous pouvions être surpris par les Anglais au milieu de l'opération. Aussi dès quatre heures du soir, le Général en Chef étoit-il sur une galère avec son Etat-Major, environné des canots et chaloupes des bâtiments qui avoient envoyés des détachemens pour la descente.

Le 14 au matin, le débarquement s'est opéré sur le fort appellé *Le Marabou*, à deux lieues à l'ouest d'Alexandrie. Point de résistance ! pas un canon au Marabou ! La troupe s'achemine par pelotons vers la ville ; les traîneurs ou ceux qui s'écartent, sont attaqués par des partis d'Arabes, et de quelques Mamelouks qui voltigent çà et là. Il y a des combats particuliers où nous perdons quelques hommes. Arrivés à la ville, nos braves

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éprouvent de la résistance. Des canons de 3 et 4 (et nous n'en avions pas encore) des carabines, des pierres, tout annonce la resolution de se défendre. Le Général Kleber est blessé à la tête, le Général Menou en plusieurs endroits. Mais à onze heures nous étions maîtres d'Alexandrie, et les tirailleurs qui se défendoient par les fenêtres étoient ou cachés ou tués. Les Mamelouks et une grande quantité d'Arabes s'étoient refugiés dans le désert. Restoit une partie des habitants fort étonnés qu'on ne leur coupât pas le cou, et lisant avec extase la proclamation que le Général en Chef avoit fait imprimer en Arabe, et que vous lirez surement dans les papiers publics.

Cette proclamation a donné lieu à deux singularités remarquables. La veille nous avions pris quelques Turcs et Arabes que nous avions retenus à bord; Il s'agissoit de calmer leur imagination et d'en faire des apôtres. Ce fut un prêtre Maronite de Damas (*Chrétien comme nous*) qui fut chargé de les leur lire et d'y faire un petit commentaire. Quand vous verrez la proclamation, vous jugerez comme ce rôle lui alloit.

Le jour de la descente, le contre Amiral Turc, qui étoit dans le port d'Alexandrie avec la Caravelle (gros vaisseau du Grand Seigneur) destiné à percevoir les tributs de l'armée, envoya à bord de l'Orient son Capitaine de Pavillon avec un présent *de deux moutons*, pour s'informer des projets de l'armée navale; on lui donna à lire la proclamation; il s'en excusa sur ce qu'il ne savoit pas lire l'Arabe, on y suppléa. Chaque passage qui traitoit de l'insolence des Mamelouks le faisoit bondir de joie. Il demanda des proclamations pour la répandre, et assura que le contre Amiral qui représentoit le Grand Seigneur, donneroit à chacun l'ordre de bien accueillir

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les Français ; enfin il se retira très-satisfait après avoir pris le caffé et mangé la confiture. La Caravelle est encore dans le port avec son Pavillon de commandement.

Le 16, je descendis à Alexandrie avec l'Amiral ; ce qui avoit resté d'habitans, ainsi que les Arabes de la campagne, me parurent assez bien remis de leur frayeur, et assez confiants. On voyoit dans le Bazar (marché) des moutons, des pigeons, du tabac à fumer, et surtout force barbiers qui mettent la tête du patient entre leur genoux et qui semblent plutôt prêts à la décoler, qu'à lui faire sa toilette. Ils ont cependant la main fort légere. Je vis aussi quelques femmes, elles sont affublées de long vêtemens qui cachent absolument leurs formes, et qui ne laissent découvert que les yeux, à peu près comme les habillements des pénitents de nos provinces méridionales.

Cette ville où l'on dit qu'il reste 10,000 habitans n'a de l'ancienne Alexandrie que le nom, encore les Arabes l'appellent-ils *Scanderia*. Les traces de son enceinte annoncent qu'elle étoit fort grande et qu'elle a bien pu contenir les 300,000 ames que les historiens lui donnent. Mais le despotisme, l'abrutissement qui l'a suivi, et enfin la découverte du Cap de Bonne Espérance l'ont successivement reduit à l'état misérable où on la voit.

C'est un amas de ruines où l'on voit telle maison bâtie de boue et de paille, adossée à des tronçons de colonnes de granit. Les rues n'y sont pas pavées : l'image de la destruction ressort bien davantage à la vue de deux monuments qui seuls ont traversé intacts les siècles qui ont tout dévoré autour d'eux. C'est la colonne de Pompée et qui a été élevée par Sévère ; je ne l'ai vue qu'à une certaine distance, mais j'ai vu de près et mesuré de l'œil l'obélisque appellée l'aiguille de Cléopatre ; elle

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est d'une seule pierre de granit très-bien conservée, elle m'a paru avoir 72 pieds de hauteur, 7 à sa base, et 4 vers le sommet ; elle est surchargée d'hiérogliphes sur ses quatre faces. On voit çà et là quelques datiers, arbres tristes, qui ressemblent assez de loin au pin, dont la tige a été dépouillée jusques vers le sommet.

Tel est l'abord de cette terre dont l'intérieur est si fertile, est qui sous un gouvernement éclairé peut voir renaître les siècles d'Alexandre et des Ptolomées.

Arrivés au quartier Général à l'extrémité de la ville, nous y trouvâmes un mouvement, un air de vie qui y étoit inconnu depuis longtems, des troupes qui débarquoient, d'autres qui se mettoient en marche pour traverser le désert vers Rosette. Les Généraux, les soldats, les Turcs, les Arabes, les chameaux, tout cela formoit des contrastes qui peignoient au naturel la Révolution qui alloit changer la face de ce païs.

Au milieu de cette confusion paroissoit le Général en Chef, réglant la marche des troupes, la police de la ville, les précautions sanétaires contre la peste, traçant de nouvelles fortifications, co-ordonnant les mouvements de l'armée navale avec ceux de l'armée de terre, dépêchant avec des Arabes soumis des proclamations aux tribus épouvantées. Un grand exemple frappa dans ce moment ; un militaire fut amené qui avoit enlevé un poignard à un Arabe paisible ; le fait vérifié en un instant, le militaire fut fusillé sur la place.

Aussi dès le lendemain une tribu entière de trois mille Arabes envoya-t-elle au Général en Chef des députés qui jurèrent avec lui, *sous peines de l'Enfer*, amitié entre les deux nations. Ils ramenèrent des prisonniers parmi les quels il se trouva une femme, ils l'avoient battues. Cette tribu veut fournir des soldats tout armés, d'autres

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imiteront surement cet exemple. Guerre aux Mamelouks! paix aux Arabes! tel sera le cri qui grossira nos armées et qui balayera devant nous les oppresseurs de cette partie du monde.

Je suis forcé de finir, le bâtiment part. Je n'ai pas relu pour voir si on a fidelement copié. Suppléez y. Adieu.

JAUBERT.

TRANSLATION.

L'Orient, off Aboukir, July 8.

From JAUBERT,* *Commissary*, &c.

HERE we are, my dear Jaubert, on the coasts of Egypt. Our brave troops have already got footing in its territories, and every thing announces that ere long the improvident despotism of the Mameloucs, and the apathy of the Egyptians, will be succeeded by a creative government, and by a spirit of emulation hitherto unknown to its inhabitants.

We are masters of Alexandria. On our march we seized on Aboukir and Rosetta, and are consequently in possession of one of the principal mouths of the Nile.

* It appears from the next letter, which is under the same signature, and which the reader will find well worthy of his serious attention, that Jaubert was Commissary to the fleet. The cover of this letter is either lost or mislaid, but it was probably addressed to his brother, one of the generals of the French army in Italy.

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Thou mayst trace our route on the chart to Savary's Voyage,* which I suppose thou hast before thee.

At six in the morning of the first instant, we were within six leagues of Alexandria. The *Juno* was dispatched to the port with a letter to the French Consul.—This was the ostensible motive, but her secret orders were, at all events, to bring him and all the French in the city on board the fleet. Every thing there was in confusion. A French invasion had been openly talked of for the last two months, and measures taken (as measures usually *are* taken by the Turks) to prevent it. The appearance of an English squadron of fourteen sail on the 28th of June, and which the Governor obstinately maintained to be ours, had redoubled the terrors of the city, and rendered the situation of the French residents there, more and more critical. The Consul, however, obtained permission to go on board the *Juno*, on his promise to return in three hours; and the frigate directly put to sea with him. On his arrival

* In the original it is "*Savary's, or some other*,"—what other Jaubert might allude to we know not, nor, perhaps, the writer himself; but certainly Savary's is good for nothing.

It is this man's rhapsodical and delusive panegyric on Egypt which appears to have increased, in a considerable degree, the old bias of the French government towards the seizure of that country; it also seems to be the only *Vade-Mecum* of the *Savans*, and leaders of the expedition, who appear to have placed an implicit confidence in it. The *former*, at least as far as we know, have not made any advances towards a recantation of their credulity; for, as the great Pangloss well observed, when he spat out his last tooth in the hospital, "*it does not become a philosopher to change his opinions*;" but the *latter* have loudly and frequently declared their sorrow and indignation at having been so miserably misled.

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on board the l'*Orient*, the necessity of immediate measures became apparent, not only to anticipate the English in getting possession of Alexandria, but to shelter our fleet from an engagement, which must be evidently on unequal terms, in the confusion of a first anchorage on unknown ground.

The English fleet has played with ill luck on its side—first, it missed us on the coast of Sardinia; next, it missed a convoy of 57 sail coming from Civita Vecchia, with seven thousand troops of the army of Italy on board. It did not arrive at Malta till five days after we left it; and it arrived at Alexandria two days before we reached it! It is to be presumed that it is gone to Alexandretta, under an idea that the army is to be disembarked there for the conquest of India. We shall certainly see it at last, but we are now moored in such a manner as to bid defiance to a force more than double our own.

Such, however, was our critical situation on the morning of the 1st, that in spite of the promptitude with which we disembarked, we might have been surprised by the English in the midst of our operations. Apprehensive of this, the Commander in Chief, with his Staff, was in his galley by four in the afternoon, surrounded by the boats and shallops of the different vessels, all full of troops, and ready for the descent.

On the morning of the 2d, a landing was effected at Marabou, two leagues to the west of Alexandria—not the slightest resistance! not even a piece of cannon at Marabou! The army then advanced in platoons towards the city; the stragglers, and those who marched at any distance from the main body, were attacked by parties of Arabs, and a few scattered Mameloucs, who hovered

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about us. There were also a few partial engagements, in which we lost some men. On our arrival, the entrance of our brave troops was opposed. A few three or four-pounders, (observe, that we had no artillery with us) carabines, stones, &c. announced a resolution to defend the city. General Kleber was wounded in the head, and General Menou in divers places: but by eleven o'clock we were in possession of Alexandria. The aukward musquetry which attempted a defence by firing from the windows, all hid themselves, or were killed. The Mameloucs, and a vast number of Arabs, took refuge in the desert. The few inhabitants who remained were exceedingly astonished* at finding we did not cut their throats, and read with transports of joy, the proclamation† which the Commander in Chief had previously printed in Arabic, and which you must long before this have seen in the public papers.

This proclamation has given birth to two very singular circumstances. The evening before, we had seized a few Turks and Arabs, and carried them on board the fleet. The question was to calm their apprehensions,

* The astonishment of the remaining Alexandrines, at finding the French did not cut their throats, may be tolerably well accounted for (no offence to Mons. Jaubert's sagacity!) by a slight perusal of Citizen Boyer's long letter to his father, (see No. XXII.) After an indiscriminate massacre of these unoffending people (unless it be an offence to dispute the possession of their lives and properties, with a rapacious and blood-thirsty horde of strangers) "for a space of four hours;" the trembling survivors might reasonably wonder at their being spared, and read with pleasure (or, if Mons. Jaubert will have it so, "with transports of joy,") any thing that promised a temporary cessation of the wanton cruelties of their invaders.

† See the APPENDIX, No. I.

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and make them our apostles. A Maronite priest from Damascus (*a Christian like ourselves*) was ordered to read it to them, and to comment on it as he proceeded. When you consider the proclamation,* you will judge how well the part he played became him!

The day we landed, the Turkish Vice Admiral, who was in the port of Alexandria, with the Caraval (a large vessel belonging to the Grand Seignior), destined to collect the tribute of the army, sent his flag officer on board the l'*Orient* with a present of two sheep, and an order to inquire into the destination of our armament. We gave him the proclamation to read; he excused

* Jaubert would have made no bad coadjutor to Hebert, the original *Père du Chêne*. The same impiety, the same disregard of decency, and the same readiness to adopt every prejudice of the people for the sake of turning them to the purposes of pillage and proscription!

Hypocrisy of every kind is bad; but the hypocrisy of Atheism is monstrous! it adds cowardice to guilt.

Now we are on this subject, it may not be amiss to mention that the passage before us puts the authenticity of Bonaparte's proclamation out of dispute. Our readers cannot have forgotten with what sturdiness the Opposition writers (out of a tender regard, we suppose, for the pious memory of their favourite Chief) first maintained that it was fabricated in this country, and then, when it appeared in France mutilated and disguised—(as, on account of Spain, an open profession of Mahometanism is not yet, perhaps, thought prudent)—with what versatility they veered round, and allowed that Bonaparte had, indeed, published a proclamation, but that it was only to be found in its genuine state in the French papers!

We enter into no cavils with these gentlemen. Our translation is made from a faithful rendering of the original Arabic, by the Dragoman of our Embassy at the Port, and the reader who turns to it, will perfectly comprehend the sneer of Jaubert at the part played by the Maronite, or Christian priest!

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himself on his ignorance, and it was read to him: every paragraph that touched on the insolence of the Mameloucs made him leap with joy. He asked for some proclamations to disperse, and assured us, that the Vice Admiral, who represented the person of the Grand Seignior, would give a general order for the friendly reception of the French. At length, after drinking a cup of coffee and eating some sweetmeats, he retired extremely well satisfied.* The Caraval is still in the port with the Admiral's flag flying.

I landed at Alexandria on the 4th, with the Admiral. Those of the inhabitants who had remained, as well as the Arabs of the neighbourhood, appeared to be tolerably well recovered from their fright, and in a way of acquiring a little confidence. There were in the *Bazar* (market-place) sheep, pigeons, tobacco, and a number of barbers; who place the head of their customers between their knees; and who, at first, seem rather preparing to twist their necks off than to shave them; they have, however, a very light hand, and go through their business skilfully. I saw also some women: they were muffled up in long vestments, which left nothing to be seen but the eyes; a mode of dress which put me in mind of the penitents of our southern provinces.

This city, which is still said to contain 10,000 inhabitants, has nothing of the ancient Alexandria but the name—the Arabs, indeed, call it *Scanderia*. The ruins

* We have given Bonaparte's address to the Vice Admiral in the Appendix; it is in his usual style of insolence. With respect to the farce played on board the l'*Orient*, by the Turkish messenger, we do not believe a word of it; this, however, is certain at all events, that if any such mummery took place, it was *not the Turk* that was duped by it!

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of its former circuit announce that it was once a most extensive place, and might well contain the 300,000 people which historians have given it. But the despotism and stupor which followed that period, and the discovery of the route to India by the Cape of Good Hope, have successively reduced it to the miserable state in which it now lies.

It is a mere heap of ruins, where you see a paltry hovel of mud and straw stuck against the magnificent fragments of a granite column! The streets are not paved. This image of desolation is rendered the more striking by being within view of two objects, which have passed uninjured through the lapse of ages that has devoured every thing around them. One is what is called Pompey's Column, but which was raised by Severus; this I have only seen at a distance: the other, which is called Cleopatra's Needle, I have examined closely. It is an obelisk formed of a single piece of granite, exceedingly well preserved. As far as I could judge from my eye, it is about 72 of our feet in height, 7 feet square at the base, and 4 towards the summit; it is covered with hieroglyphics on every side. A few date-trees are scattered here and there about the country. It is a melancholy looking tree, which, at a distance, bears some resemblance to a fir that has been stript of all its branches to the top.

Such is the coast of this country, so fertile in the interior! and which, under an enlightened government, might see once more revived the Age of Alexander and the Ptolemies.

Arrived at head quarters, which are fixed near the northern extremity of the city, we found an activity, an appearance of life which we had not been used to for a

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long time: some of the troops disembarking, others preparing for their march across the desert to Rosetta—Generals, soldiers, Turks, Arabs, camels—all together formed a contrast which presented a very lively picture of the Revolution* which was about to change the face of the country.

In the midst of this confusion appeared the Commander in Chief, regulating the march of the army, the police of the city, and the precautions to be taken against the plague;—tracing out new fortifications, combining the operations of the fleet with those of the army, and expediting, in conjunction with the Arabs who had submitted, proclamations to the tribes who had taken the alarm. A most striking example was made at this instant: a soldier was brought in, who had stolen a poignard from a friendly Arab; the fact was ascertained, and the culprit was instantly shot on the spot.

In consequence of this, an entire tribe of Arabs, consisting of 3000, sent deputies the next day to the Commander in Chief, to swear a lasting friendship between the two nations, under pain of damnation! They brought with them some prisoners, among whom was one of our women, whom they had beaten. This tribe will furnish us with armed soldiers; others will assuredly imitate their example. War with the Mameloucs, peace with the Arabs! such is the cry which will swell

* This is no bad picture of the restless spirit of these people. Whether abroad or at home, their expectations are the same. In every chance-medley they discover the destruction of empires; and a confusion of any kind (though but of men and camels,) is to them the certain pledge of approaching revolutions!

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our armies, and sweep before us the oppressors of this part of the world.

I am obliged to break off—the vessel is going. I have not time to read it over, to see if it be correctly copied; this must be my excuse.

Adieu.

JAUBERT.

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No. III.

En Rade d'Aboukir, le 21 Messidor.

(Pour vous seul.)

Au Général Bruix.

Je vous rends un compte administratif par ma lettre de ce jour, mon cher Bruix ; je dépose ma circonspection ordonnatrice pour vous parler de notre position dans ce païs. Il n'y aura pas d'ordre dans ma lettre, parce que je suis continuellement distrait par les demandes réitérées que vous savez qu'on n'épargne pas au mouillage, et que d'ailleurs le bâtiment courier est prêt à partir.

En général les officiers de terre et de mer se sont quittés froidement. L'entassement où l'on étoit pour les logements, et la maigreur des tables devoient nécessairement produire ces effets.

Tous les ordres un peu importans ont dans le commencement été donnés par le Général en Chef, par la suite le Chef de l'Etat-Major Berthier les transmettoit à l'Amiral. Ceux pour la descente soit à Malte soit à Alexandrie ont été donnés le premier le jour même, l'autre deux jours auparavant. Vous savez quelle différence il y a entre les préparatifs de mer et ceux de terre : mais telle est la méthode du Général en Chef, et tout a parfaitement réussi.

Malte est sans approvisionnemens, avec très-peu d'ar-

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gent, et une vente nécessairement éloignée de biens nationaux. Une immense population y était nourrie par l'ordre. Les secours de France ne seront pas, je l'imagine, abondants ; ceux d'Egypte ne sont pas prêts d'être réalisés ; c'est pourtant un point militaire bien intéressant.

Cinq ou six jours avant notre arrivée, la peste avoit cessé à Alexandrie. Il y avoit pourtant au Port Neuf un bâtiment qui en étoit infecté ; et d'où quelques marins s'étoient échappé dans la ville. Il n'est pas arrivé d'accident ; d'ailleurs vous savez que dans la grande chaleur la peste n'a plus de prise en Egypte.

Vous rirez, peut-être vous autres Parisiens de la proclamation Mahométane du Général en Chef ; il a passé par dessus les Lazzi, et elle produira un très-grand effet. Vous vous rappellez celui produit par le cri magique, *guerre aux Châteaux, paix aux Cabanes.* Le Général en Chef arrivera au Caire avec une grande armée— mais les divisions feront le reste.

Quand l'officier et le soldat virent Alexandrie et les désert, qui l'environnent, ils furent frappés de stupeur. Bonaparte a tout ranimé.

Les Arabes et les Mameloucs ont traité quelques uns de nos prisonniers comme Socrate, dit-on, Alcibiade. Il falloit périr ou y passer : un grenadier s'est fait tuer. Ils n'avoient que battu les femmes qu'ils nous avoient prises.

Le port d'Alexandrie est nul en approvisionnemens maritimes, nul en établissemens. La conquête présente plus de ressources, mais on en tirera par la suite un immense parti. Alexandre fit tout dans un an.

Il est encore incertain si des vaisseaux de 74 peuvent y entrer. Deux Venitiens de 64 y sont. On parloit de faire décharger l'artillerie pour y entrer : mais qu'y

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aurions nous fait ? et quand et comment serions nous sortis ?

Nous sommes au mouillage d'Aboukir, à 5 lieues Est d'Alexandrie, assez bon pour l'été. Il est intenable en hyver. Les Anglois, (ils ont 14 vaisseaux et nous 13, dont trois foibles,) sont dans nos parages ; nous les attendons ; l'opinion générale étoit (mais aussi pouvoit-il y entrer quelque sentiment personnel), qu'aussitôt le débarquement opéré, nous aurions dû partir pour Corfou, ou nous aurions été ralliés par nos vaisseaux de Malte, de Toulon, et d'Ancone pour être prêts à tout. Le Général en a décidé autrement. Le bonheur qui accompagne ses opérations suivra aussi celle-ci. Au reste, nous sommes ici sous le vent du fatalisme, et son souffle ébranle un peu mes principes.

Comme les hommes sont imprévoyans dans les vœux qu'ils forment ! j'avois quelque velléité de rester Ordonnateur quelque tems à Malte : mais quand j'ai vu qu'au moins la première année ce port ne recevroit ni de France, ni d'Egypte aucun secours qui en rendît le séjour supportable ; qu'une population nombreuse souffriroit au moins pendant un tems les douleurs du passage d'une organisation mauvaise, sans doute, mais stable, à une organisation toute différente ;—Je me suis dit ; " qu'une autre soit témoin de ces angoisses, et réservons nos vœux pour Alexandrie." Là, j'ai eu tout à faire, tout à souffrir, et du climat et des hommes, et je me suis accroché plus fortement que jamais à l'armée navale, décidé à suivre ses destinées. J'ai souvent jetté les yeux vers la France, vers mes amis, mais je n'ai pas regretté un seul instant les sacrifices que j'ai faits.

Adieu, mon cher Bruix, soyez heureux, réalisez vos

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vœux pour la restauration de la marine. Recevez les assurances de mon tendre et éternel attachement.

JAUBERT.

Permettez que Madame Bruix, et Mademoiselle Thérese trouvent ici mes hommages respectueux.

Je ne vous fais pas la relation de la prise d'Alexandrie. Je charge Forestier de vous lire les lettres que je lui écris.

Comme il y a beaucoup d'indiscrétion dans cette lettre, vous me ferez plaisir de la brûler après l'avoir lue.

TRANSLATION.

(*For your own private reading.*)

At anchor off Aboukir, July 9.

* *To General* BRUIX, *Minister of the Marine, &c.*

IN my letter of this day's date, my dear Bruix, you will find my official accompts. In this I shall venture to lay aside my commissarial caution, and speak to you unreservedly on our real situation in this country.

* This is the letter to which we particularly wished to call the reader's attention. It owes, as he will see, its superior interest to the great degree of intimacy subsisting between Jaubert and the first minister of the marine, and which allowed him to speak out, without hazarding a voyage to Cayenne.

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There will be no connection in my letter; first, because I have my attention called off every moment by the repeated applications which, as you well know, are never sparingly made by a fleet at anchor; and secondly, because the vessel which carries the dispatches is under weigh.

Generally speaking, the land and sea officers took their leaves of each other in a very cold manner. The way in which they were all crowded together for want of room, and the scanty allowance to which they were confined, account for it naturally enough.*

* We have before us an official letter from Jaubert to Bruix, dated on board the l'Orient the 4th of July. The letter in general is not sufficiently interesting to be laid before the public, but the concluding paragraph throws some light on this passage.

"Deux cents quatre-vingt-treize bâtiments composoient les "convois de Toulon, Marseille, Genes, Ajaccio, et Civita Ve- "chia; ils étoient armés d'environ 4,500 hommes, et portoient "outre l'artillerie destinée pour l'armée de terre, 22,000 hommes "et 1,200 cheveaux."

"The transports from Toulon, Marseilles, Genoa, Ajaccio, "and Civita Vecchia amounted in all to 293 sail; they were "manned with about 4,500 men; and had on board, besides the "artillery, 22,000 land forces, and 1,200 horses."

Now it appears from a variety of documents that the number embarked from France and Italy, was about 40,000 (not picked regiments and companies, but) picked men. If we now allow 5000 for the garrison of Malta, and for casualties on the voyage, we shall find the number of troops distributed on board the ships of war, to be something above 11,000—if to these we add the staff of the whole army, we shall be able, as Jaubert says, to account naturally enough, for the coldness between the land and sea officers, who had been thus packed together for near three months.

It appears from Boyer's list (No. 22.), which we know to be perfectly correct, that the ships of war consisted of 15 sail of the line,

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All orders of any consequence were at first given out by the Commander in Chief; latterly the Admiral has received them from Berthier, the head of the staff.* That for our landing at Malta was issued on the very day of our disembarkation. Two days only were allowed at Alexandria. The immense difference between land and sea operations can be no secret to you; but such is the General's way of doing things! As it is, every thing has completely succeeded.

14 frigates, and several corvettes, and smaller vessels. It may not be improper in this place to mention their fate.—Of the 15 sail of the line, 11 were taken and destroyed by Lord Nelson, two made their escape to Corfou and Malta, and two are still in the Old Port of Alexandria.—Of the 14 frigates, two were destroyed in the great engagement, one taken by the Turks, another (the Sensible) by our cruizers, eight are at this moment in the port of Alexandria, and one is unaccounted for,—most probably it is stopped in one of the Turkish ports.—Of the smaller vessels, some have been destroyed, and some taken.

It is a pleasing circumstance, however, to consider, that of all this vast armament, the greatest, as Boyer says, that ever appeared in the Mediterranean (see his Letter, No. 22.) *not one* has yet reached France; and we shall be much mistaken indeed if ONE EVER DOES! The French may amuse themselves as much as they please, and the Jacobins of this country may follow them, in speculating to what fortunate empire the fleet will next convey the blessings of liberty.—The blessings we know to be immense; but—the fleet will never leave Alexandria!

* This seems to shew a kind of contempt for Brueys. How it originated we know not, but most probably in the ignorance and presumption of Bonaparte, who, accustomed to have his commands carried into instant execution, could not always brook the delays occasioned by the nature of the sea service, and which his inexperience in these matters might sometimes lead him to attribute to a want of zeal or knowledge in the Admiral.

The influence of Bonaparte in France is strongly marked in

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Malta is without a supply of provisions—with very little money—a sale of national property that cannot possibly take place for some time—and an immense population, which was wholly supported by the Order.* The supplies from France will not, I imagine, be very abundant; those from Egypt are not yet in a state of forwardness:—and yet the possession of the island, in a military point of view, is of the utmost importance.

The plague ceased at Alexandria only five or six days before our arrival. There was, however, in the New Port, a vessel that had it on board: some of the crew had landed and gone into the city; but we heard of no accident that had happened from it; and besides, it is well known, that in the great heats, the plague is no longer infectious. You will laugh outright, perhaps, you witlings of Paris, at the Mahometan proclamation† of the Commander in Chief. He is proof, however,

this paragraph. Jaubert undoubtedly thinks him wrong, and yet in a confidential letter written to the Minister of Marine, the friend and patron of Brueys, he scarcely dares to breathe a doubt of his infallibility.

* Here is a pretty specimen of the favours conferred by these propagandists of liberty, &c. on the *poor* of Malta—the constant objects, as we all know, and as we have all been told a thousand times, of their peculiar protection and regard! They were wholly supported, as Jaubert truly says, by the Order; yet the French abolish that order, seize all its property to themselves, and leave the poor inhabitants, like the canons of Boileau, "eperdus et benis," free, as they are pleased to call it, and starving! It is some consolation, however, to find that the Maltese are not wholly insensible of the kindness.

† The witlings of London (the Morning Chronicle, the Courier, and the other Jacobin papers) did better; they denied its authenticity, and substituted in its place a proclamation fabricated for the purpose by the Directory.

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against all your raillery; and the thing itself will certainly produce a most surprising effect. You recollect that produced by the magic cry of GUERRE AUX CHATEAUX, PAIX AUX CABANES.*

The Commander in Chief will march to the attack of Cairo with the grand army; the divisions will do the rest. When the army first got sight of Alexandria, and the deserts which surround it, both officers and men were

* "WAR TO PALACES! PEACE TO COTTAGES!"—It is fortunate for mankind that the French in the wantonness of success sometimes put off the mask, and discover the features of the Revolution in all their deformity! This "magic cry" (as it is truly called) has set one part of Europe against the other. It has furnished a topic for declamation to the cold-blooded philosophists of every country; who, from their closets, have propagated the destructive war-hoop from nation to nation, with all the enthusiasm of demons. It was in vain to tell the people that the fall of one involved that of the other. They were long governed more by words than by facts; and it was not till they saw themselves surrounded by the ruins of their smoking "cottages," while "palaces" frequently remained uninjured, that they began to awake from their dream of inviolability, and curse at once the authors of their delusion, and the agents of their destruction.

The poor in every country which the French have reached, have been the chief sufferers; and, in consequence of it, among the foremost to retaliate on their oppressors. Jourdan's grand army was nearly annihilated by them in its flight, and Belgium and Italy, and Switzerland *which has no "palaces;"* are at this moment filled with an injured peasantry, breathing "curses not loud but deep," and cutting off in secresy and silence, whole armies of their wanton and hypocritical destroyers.

The "magic cry" thank Heaven! has lost its power to charm, and now remains a mere *vox et præterea nihil*, serving only to remind its profligate employers of the mischief it once wrought, and, as in the instance before us, to furnish an unfeeling allusion, or a witticism.

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struck with consternation. Bonaparte has revived their spirits.

The port of Alexandria is absolutely destitute of means, either for victualling or refitting a single ship. But the conquest will soon enable us to draw immense advantages from it. Alexander did every thing in a year!

The Arabs and the Mameloucs have treated some of our prisoners as Socrates is said to have treated Alcibiades. There was no alternative but death or submission;—one of our grenadiers chose the former. They took some of our women too; but they only beat them!

It is not yet certain whether our seventy-fours can get into the port. The two Venetian sixty-fours are already there. There was a talk of getting out our guns to enable us to enter. But in that case, what should we do there, and when and how should we get out again?

We are now moored at Aboukir, about five leagues to the east of Alexandria—the road is well enough in summer; but in winter quite untenable. The English are in our neighbourhood. They have fourteen sail, and we thirteen, of which three are rather out of condition. We are in expectation of them. The general opinion (but this might be influenced in some degree by personal considerations) was, that as soon as the debarkation was effected, we should have sailed for Corfou; where we were to be reinforced by the ships from Malta, Toulon, and Ancona, and thus prepared for all events. The General has decided it otherwise.* The good fortune

* If (which is far from being the case,) we had any respect for the moral character of General Bonaparte, we should feel a considerable degree of uneasiness at this passage—one of the most important in the whole correspondence. It proves him to be a

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which attends all his operations, will not fail to follow this:—for the rest—we are under the gale of fatalism, and its breath shakes my principles a little.

base, and cowardly, and faithless calumniator of a brave man, whose only crime was too strict an obedience to his own orders. —But to the proofs.

In the General's official letter to the Directory, of which they have somehow or other obtained a duplicate—(for the original is in our possession)—he says, "that to the 24th of July he believed "that the Admiral had either sailed for Corfou, or entered the "port of Alexandria."

Both these assertions are false, and the latter of them is infamously so. We have a letter of Bonaparte's written more than a fortnight before the time he mentions, and in this he expressly says, that "on account of a part of the channel which has no "more than five fathoms of water, the seventy-fours cannot en-"ter the port."

"I then," continues he—(we must premise that we take our translation from the *Courier*, a paltry paper, but of sufficient authority in the present case,)—"I then" (that is on the 27th) "wrote to him again, that he must not lose an hour, but either "enter the port of Alexandria, or return to Corfou." This too is a falsehood; for we have the very letter (see No. VIII.), and it does not say a syllable of either: it mentions, as our readers will see, the General's hopes that Brueys was then in the port; but it mentions also, that he was to take no step (much less to sail for Corfou) without further orders.

"On the 29th he wrote to me that he had found a passage for "entering the port of Alexandria."—This we cannot contradict of course, but we have every reason for believing it as unfounded as the rest, and merely inserted to excuse his detention of the fleet.

"It seemed to me that Admiral Brueys was unwilling to re-"turn to Corfou before he had ascertained the practicability of "entering Alexandria."—How little must the "Hero of Italy" have looked in his own eyes when he penned this sentence! It appears not only from Jaubert's letter, but from a thousand con-

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How deficient in foresight are we all in the wishes which we form! I had half an inclination to remain Commissary for some time at Malta; but when I saw that, for the first year at least, that port could neither receive from France nor from Egypt such supplies as would render a residence there tolerable, and that a numerous population would suffer, at least, for a time, the agonies of passing from an organization, imperfect without doubt, but long established, to one differing from it in

curring circumstances, that the sole wish of Brueys was, and had been from the moment the debarkation was effected, to return to Corfou; that he had been long convinced that the port of Alexandria could not receive him, though he continued his examination of its entrance; and that he was detained against his will on the coast of Egypt, by the express and positive command of the General himself.

On the other hand, it appears, that General Bonaparte was so far from ordering the fleet to Corfou, that he had actually written for the three Venetian ships which remained at Ancona, (in the neighbourhood, as it were, of Corfou), to come and join Admiral Brueys at Aboukir. This fact we have in his letter of the 6th of July.—" J'aurois besoin que vous (that is the Direc- " tory to whom he writes), m'envoyassiez le plutôt possible, les " trois vaisseaux Venitiens qui sont à Toulon: j'enverrai cher- " cher les trois qui sont à Ancone."—" If in this calamitous " event *he was to blame*,"—shame! shame!—" he has expiated " his faults by a glorious death"—

——————— the gracious Duncan
Was pitied of Macbeth—marry, HE WAS DEAD.

The remainder of the letter we shall not notice, nor, indeed, is it worth it. Such as it is, however, it has furnished his *Jacobin* admirers in this country with fresh proofs of his veracity, wisdom, and we know not what, at the expence of the unfortunate Brueys. Those who have a taste for these things, may be fully gratified by recurring to the Jacobin prints of the 29th and 30th of October last.

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every respect:—when I saw all this, I said to myself, "let "somebody else be a witness to these dreadful distresses, "and let me try my fortune at Alexandria." There I had every thing to do, and every thing to suffer, both from the climate and the troops—and I clung more closely than ever to the fleet, determined to follow its destiny. I have often turned my eyes towards France, towards my friends, but I have never regretted the sacrifices I made in quitting Malta.

Adieu, my dear Bruix, be happy, and realize your wishes for the re-establishment of the marine. Accept the assurances of my affectionate and unceasing attachment.

JAUBERT.

Allow me to present my respectful services to Madame Bruix, and Mademoiselle Theresa.

I say nothing to you of the capture of Alexandria. I shall request Forestier to read his letter to you.

As I have been rather too open in this letter, you will oblige me by throwing it into the fire as soon as you have read it.*

* It is probable that Jaubert perished in the explosion of the l'Orient, and cannot, therefore, have much to fear from the friends of Bonaparte, or from the Government. Had it been otherwise, we confess we should not have been withheld from publishing his letter by any consideration of the dangers to which he might be exposed by it. We feel little solicitude for the fate of a man, however able, who appears to be a villain upon principle, and to assist, in pure gaiety of heart, in the infernal work of Revolution, though he sees and clearly points out the train of human woes that must follow its accomplishment.

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No. IV.

A bord de l'Orient, le 21 Messidor, an 6.

L'Amiral BRUEYS, *Commandant les Forces Navales de la République dans la Méditerrannée, au Ministre de la Marine et des Colonies.*

Citoyen Ministre,

JE vous ai écrit de Malte en date du 26 Prairial; je vous rendois compte de l'arrivée de la flotte sur ce parage, et de la prise de l'isle. L'armée et le convoi étoient sous voile le 1er Messidor, et le 13 suivant nous arrivâmes devant le port-vieux d'Alexandrie.

Je m'étois fait précéder par la frégate la Junon pour aller prendre le Consul, ce qui réussit parfaitement. Le Citoyen Magallon neveu arriva le 13, et nous dit que le 10, une escadre Anglaise s'étoit présentée en ligne de bataille devant le port d'Alexandrie, où elle avoit detaché un brick, et qu'à son retour cette escadre avoit dirigé sa route dans le N. E. On l'avoit jugé composée de quatorze vaisseaux de ligne.

Le Consul nous dit qu'on s'attendoit depuis longtems à l'arrivée des François; qu'il y avoit beaucoup de fermentation et une grande inquiétude dans le pays.

Le Général en Chef désira être débarqué sur le champ. Je fis mouiller l'armée et le convoi sur la côte, et dans la nuit du 13. Six mille hommes furent mis à terre dans une anse à l'Ouest du port-vieux auprès d'un château nommé *Le Marabou*, distant d'environ deux lieues de la ville. Persomne ne s'opposa à la descente.

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Le 14 à midi, nos troupes étoient dans la ville, et trois heures après le fort se rendit. Il y eut quelque résistance à la muraille qui entoure la ville, mais elle fut bientôt escaladée. On tira quelques coups de fusil dans les rues par les fenêtres. Le fort tira quelques coups de canon, et bref, tout se rendit.

Je débarquai toutes les troupes et les effets appartenant à l'armée de terre, et le 19 ayant été reconnu que les vaisseaux ne pouvoient pas entrer dans le port à cause du peu de profondeur qu'il y a à l'entrée, je fis mouiller le convoi et les Venitiens, et je mis sous voile pour aller mouiller à la rade de Bequier, avec les treize vaisseaux et trois frégates.

J'y arrivai l'après midi, et je formai une ligne de bataille à $\frac{2}{3}$ d'encablure de distance. Le vaisseau de tête le plus près possible de l'écueil qui nous reste dans le N. O. et le reste de la ligne formant une ligne courbe le long des hauts-fonds de manière à ne pas être doublé dans le S. O. Cette position est la plus forte que nous puissions prendre dans une rade ouverte, où l'on ne peut pas s'approcher assez de terre pour y établir des batteries, et où deux escadres ennemies peuvent rester à la distance qui leur convient.

Nos troupes sont entrées hier 19 à Rosette, et l'armée est en marche pour le Caire.

Nous faisons entrer dans le Nil le plus de bâtiments légers possibles, et le Général en Chef m'a demandé le Chef de Division Perrée pour les commander. Cette flotille a fait route ce matin pour essayer de passer sur la barre de Rosette. Vous voyez que nous marchons à la conquête de l'Egypte à pas de géant.

Il est fâcheux qu'il n'y ait pas un port où une escadre puisse entrer; mais le port-vieux tant vanté est fermé

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par des rescifs hors de l'eau, et sous l'eau, qui forment des passages fort étroits, et entre lesquels il n'y a que 23 pieds, 25 et 30. La mer y est ordinairement élevée, et vous voyez qu'un vaisseau de 74 seroit fort exposé, d'autant qu'il seroit brisé un quart d'heure après y avoir touché. J'ai offert, pour satisfaire au desir du Général en Chef, dix mille francs au pilote du pays qui entreroit l'escadre; mais aucun n'a voulu se charger que d'un bâtiment qui tireroit au plus vingt pieds d'eau. J'espère cependant, qu'on parviendra à trouver un passage dans lequel nos 74 pourront entrer: mais ce ne peut être que le fruit de beaucoup de soins et de peines.

J'en ai chargé deux officiers intelligents, l'un est le Capitaine de frégate, Barré, commandant l'Alceste, et le second le Citoyen Vidal, Lieutenant de Vaisseaux; s'ils trouvent un canal, ils le baliseront, et alors on pourra entrer sans beaucoup de danger. Le fond en dedans des rescifs va en augmentant jusqu'à 15 brasses; mais la sortie sera toujours très-difficile et très-longue; et dès-lors une escadre y sera mal-placée. Je n'ai plus entendu parler des Anglais; ils ont peut-être été nous chercher en Syrie, ou plutôt je pense qu'ils avoient moins de 14 vaisseaux, et que ne se trouvant pas en nombre supérieur, ils n'auront pas jugé à-propos de se mesurer avec nous.

Nous attendons avec grande impatience que la conquête de l'Egypte nous procure des vivres; nous en fournissons continuellement aux troupes, et tous les jours on nous fait quelques nouvelles saignées. Il ne nous reste que pour 15 jours de biscuit; et nous sommes dans ce mouillage comme en pleine mer, c'est-à-dire, consommant tout, et ne remplaçant rien.

Nos équipages sont très-foibles en nombre et en qualité d'hommes; nos vaisseaux sont en général fort mal-

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armés, et je trouve qu'il faut bien du courage pour se charger de conduire des flottes aussi mal-outillées.

Je ne crois pas devoir entrer dans de plus grands détails sur notre situation; vous êtes marin, et vous sentirez mieux notre position, que je ne pourrois vous la dépeindre.

Je vais vous transcrire le paragraphe de la lettre du Général en Chef que je viens de recevoir:

" J'ai demandé au Directoire Exécutif, le grade de " Contre Amiral pour votre Chef d'Etat-Major Gan- " teaume; je vous prie de le faire recevoir. J'ai " cherché par-là à donner une preuve d'estime et de re- " connoissance aux bons services, à l'activité, et au zèle " qu'a mis votre Etat-Major, et en général toute l'es- " cadre, à exécuter les ordres du Gouvernement.

(Signé) BONAPARTE."

Salut et respect,

BRUEYS.

TRANSLATION.

On board the l'Orient, July 12th.

Admiral BRUEYS, *commanding the Naval Forces of the Republic in the Mediterranean, to the Minister of the Marine, and of the Colonies.*

Citizen Minister,

I WROTE to you from Malta on the 14th of June; in that letter I gave you an account of the arrival of the fleet at Malta, and of the capture of that island. The

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ships of the line, and the transports were all under sail on the 19th, and on the 1st of July we were off the old port of Alexandria.

I had previously dispatched the Juno to bring the Consul on board. Citizen Magallon (the nephew) arrived on the 1st, and informed us that an English squadron had appeared in line of battle off the port of Alexandria, on the 28th of June, that they had detached a brig to the town, and that on its return, they had made sail to the north-east. The squadron was supposed to consist of fourteen ships of the line.

The Consul also told us that our arrival had been daily looked for, for some time; that there was a great fermentation in the country, and no inconsiderable degree of uneasiness and apprehension.

The Commander in Chief desired to be put on shore immediately; I therefore came to anchor on the coast, and during the night succeeded in landing 6000 men in a creek to the west of the Old Port, near a castle called Marabou, about two leagues from the city; not the slightest opposition was made to our descent.

The 2d, at noon, our troops were in the city, and in three hours afterwards the fort surrendered. There was some resistance attempted at the wall which surrounds the city, but it was immediately scaled. A few shot were fired into the streets from the windows of the houses; the fort too, fired a few cannon: but every thing was soon in our possession.

I disembarked all the troops, and the baggage belonging to them, and on the 7th, having satisfied myself that our ships of war could not get into the port for want of a sufficient depth of water at the entrance, I

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ordered the Venetian ships,* and the transports, to come to an anchor there, and stood off with the thirteen sail of the line and the three frigates, with an intent of mooring in the Bay of Bequiers.

I arrived there in the afternoon, and formed a line of battle at two-thirds of a cable length, the headmost vessel being *as close as possible* † to a shoal to the north-west of us, and the rest of the fleet forming a kind of curve along the line of deep water, so as not to be turned, by any means, in the south-west. This position is the strongest we could possibly take in an open road, where we cannot approach sufficiently near the land to be protected by batteries, and where the enemy has it in his power to choose his own distance.

Our troops entered Rosetta yesterday, and the army is now in full march for Cairo.

We have pushed into this branch of the Nile as many of our light vessels as possible; and the Commander in

* *Le Dubois* and *le Causse*, of 64 guns each, and two or three frigates.

† Never was there a more glorious testimony to the intrepidity and skill of the British seamen, than this letter furnishes. The French Admiral, a man of no common abilities in his profession, and anxious, above all things, to secure his fleet from being headed by an enemy, places his van ship as near the shoal as possible (*le plus près possible* are his own words), and reposes in the most perfect confidence, that nothing can molest him in that quarter; and yet it was between this very shoal and ship, and through this very passage, which, after an examination of twenty-four days (from the 7th to the 31st of July), the French Admiral conceived impracticable, that the gallant NELSON led his BRITONS (the men whom the *Morning Chronicle* pronounced to be "without courage, and ready to resign their swords to every puny "whipster") to victory, and everlasting Fame!

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Chief has asked me for the Chief of Division, Perrée, to command them. The flotilla sailed this morning to try if it be possible to get over the bar of Rosetta. You see that we are marching to the conquest of Egypt with the steps of a giant.

It is vexatious that there is not a port where a fleet can enter; but the Old Port, of which we have heard so much, is shut up by a reef of rocks, some under, and some above, water, forming a number of narrow channels, where the depth is only from 23 to 25 and 30 feet. The sea, too, is commonly very high: thus you see, that one of our seventy-fours would be in no small danger there, especially as she would inevitably go to pieces in a few minutes after touching the ground.

To gratify the wishes of the Commander in Chief,* I have offered a reward of ten thousand livres to any pilot of the country who will undertake to carry the squadron in; but none of them will venture to take charge of a single vessel that draws more than twenty feet. I hope, however, that we shall succeed in finding a channel by which our seventy-fours may enter; but this can only be the result of many laborious and painful experiments.

I have already engaged two intelligent officers in this business; Captain Barré, commanding at present the *Alceste*, and Citizen Vidal, first Lieutenant. If they find a channel, they will buoy it for us; and then we may enter without much danger. The depth within the reefs increases to fifteen fathoms, but the getting out

* Here is positive proof of the falsehood of Bonaparte's assertions respecting the sailing of the fleet. We beseech the reader to bear this passage in mind, for we shall by and by return to it.

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of the harbour will, in all cases, be very difficult, and very tedious; so that a squadron would engage to a vast disadvantage.

I have heard nothing further of the English. They are gone, perhaps, to look for us on the coast of Syria; or rather (and this is my private opinion) they have not so many as fourteen sail of the line; and finding themselves not superior in numbers, do not think it quite so prudent to try their strength with us.*

We look forward with the greatest anxiety to the time when the conquest of Egypt shall furnish us with provisions. We are now obliged to supply the troops continually—every hour new drains are made upon us. We have now only fifteen days' biscuit on board; and we are in this anchorage just as if we were on the high seas—consuming every thing, and replacing nothing.

Our crews are weak both in number and quality. Our rigging, in general, out of repair; and I am sure that it requires no little courage to undertake the management of a fleet, furnished with such tools!

I do not think it necessary to enter into any further details on our present situation. You are a seaman, and will therefore conceive it better than I can describe it to you.

* We were sorry to find such a passage as this in Brueys' letter. He was evidently a man of courage and capacity, and ought to have known his enemy better. Such flights of vanity and imbecillity are things of course in the dispatches of the Directory; but this is not an official letter; it is evidently meant for the private information of Bruix, and seems drawn up as a kind of defence against the probable remonstrances of Bonaparte.

It is needless to observe how much the unfortunate Admiral was deceived. His fate will not be altogether useless to his countrymen, if it gives them juster notions of our "prudence," with equal, or even inferior numbers.

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Before I conclude, I will transcribe a paragraph from a letter which I have just received from the Commander in Chief:

"I have asked of the Executive Directory, the rank "of Rear Admiral for your Chief of the Staff, Gan- "teaume. I beseech you to appoint him. I have "sought by this to give a proof of my gratitude and "esteem for the essential services, the activity, and the "zeal manifested by your staff officers, and, generally "speaking, the whole squadron, in executing the orders "of the Government.

(Signed) "BONAPARTE."

Health and respect.

BRUEYS.

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No. V.

A Gisé, le 6 Thermidor, an 6.

EMMANUEL PERRE'E, *Chef de Division, au Vice Amiral* BRUEYS, *Commandant en Chef la Force Navale en station devant Alexandrie.*

Citoyen Général,

DEPUIS notre séparation, je n'ai cessé de rappeller au Général en Chef la position où je vous avois laissé; ce à quoi il a pris beaucoup de part. Il a saisi la première occasion qui s'est présentée pour vous faire passer 58 schermes chargées de différentes denrées.

Tant qu'à nous, notre position n'a pas été des plus belles depuis notre séparation; le 25 Messidor, nous avons rencontré l'armée ennemie au point du jour. J'avais pour lors 3 canonnières, la galère, et le Cerf. L'ennemi avait 7 canonnières portant du 24 et du 36. L'affaire a commencé à 9 heures; deux de mes canonnières et la galère ont été abandonnées par rapport au grand feu de l'ennemi, qui nous battait par mer et par terre.

Il s'en était déjà emparé, mais le grand feu que faisait le Cerf, et une autre canonnière l'ont obligé d'abandonners a proie. J'ai coulé bas leur canonnière commandante, et la déroute s'est mis dans leur flotille; ils n'ont eu que le temps de fuir. Assurément si 3 de mes meilleurs bâtiments n'eussent pas été forcés de céder, il n'aurait plus été question de la flotille ennemie. J'ai eu

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20 hommes blessés, et plusieurs tués. J'ai eu mon sabre enlevé, et un peu du bras gauche, cependant j'espère que cela ne sera rien ; je suis presque guéri.

La misère de la traversée ne peut se peindre. Nous avons été réduits pendant quelques jours à ne vivre que de pastiche, et toutes les heures la fusillade de la part des Arabes, cependant toujours vainqueurs, à quelques morts et blessés près.

Le Nil n'est pas tel qu'on me l'avait dit ; il est très-tortueux, fort peu d'eau, puisque j'ai été obligé de laisser le schebeck, la galère, et 2 canonnières, à 13 lieues du Caire, où je suis arrivé, hier, à 8 heures du soir.

Le peu de tems dont je puis disposer, ne me permet pas de plus grands détails. Notre armée a eu une affaire très-vive avec les Mamelouks, dont-il a péri plus de 12 cents : notre perte est peu considerable ; on l'évalue à 20 tués, et 150 blessés.

Salut et respect,

EMMANUEL PERRE'E.

P. S. Je vous prie, Général, de me faire passer 5 à 6 officiers intelligents, et une quarantaine d'hommes. Vous m'obligerez, ainsi que le Général en Chef.

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TRANSLATION.

Gizeh, July 24.

EMMANUEL PERRE'E, *General of Division, to Vice-Admiral* BRUEYS, *Commander in Chief of the Naval Force stationed before Alexandria.*

Citizen General,

SINCE our separation, I have lost no opportunity of recalling to the mind of the Commander in Chief, the situation in which I left you. He takes a lively interest in it, and has seized the first opportunity which offered, of sending you 58 vessels laden with different articles.

As for us, our position has not been the most agreeable since we parted. On the 13th of July we fell in with the enemy's army, at break of day. I had then with me 3 gun boats, the galley, and the Cerf. The enemy had 7 gun boats, carrying from 24 to 36 pounders. The action began at nine; two of my gun boats, and the galley were run on shore, and quitted by the crews, on account of the terrible fire which the enemy opened upon us from their boats, and from the banks of the river.

The enemy were already in possession of them, but the brisk fire from the Cerf, and the remaining gun boats obliged them to abandon their prey.

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I sunk the vessel which carried their flag; confusion immediately took place, and they had only time to make their escape. Had not three of my best vessels been obliged to give way, I should certainly have destroyed the whole of their flotilla.*

I had twenty of my men wounded and several killed. A ball struck my sword out of my hand, and carried away a piece of my left arm. I do not think, however, that it will be attended with any bad consequences; indeed, it is already nearly well.

I cannot describe to you what we suffered in this expedition. We were reduced for several days to subsist entirely on water-melons; during which we were constantly exposed to the fire of the Arabs, although, with the exception of a few killed and wounded, we always came off victorious.

The Nile is very far from answering the description I had received of it. It winds incessantly, and is withal so shallow, that I was compelled to leave the chebeck, the galley, and two of my gun boats, thirteen leagues below Cairo, which I reached yesterday evening.

The little time I have to spare prevents me from entering into farther particulars. Our army has had a smart action with the Mamelouks, who lost more

* This is admirable. Had he not been beaten and lost half his fleet, he would have been victorious! The plain truth, however, as appears from several letters, particularly from one of Adjutant General Boyer's (see No. XXII.), who commanded the land forces on board, is, that he was defeated, and only saved from absolute destruction by the appearance of the van of the army. Notwithstanding this foolish gasconade, General Perrée seems to be a man of courage and abilities.

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than 1200 men. Our loss is very trifling; it amounts, I understand, to about 20 killed, and 150 wounded.

Health and respect.

EMMANUEL PERRE'S.

P. S. Pray send me immediately five or six intelligent officers, and about forty men. You will oblige me very much, as well as the Commander in Chief.

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No. VI.

Tersi, le 7 Thermidor, an 6.

COLBERT *à son Ami* COLLASSE.

JE m'empresse, mon cher ami, de te donner de mes nouvelles, et te dire quelques mots des souffrances, et des désagrémens que nous avons éprouves.

L'incertitude où je suis encore du sort de mes effets, m'a souvent fort inquiété. Je suis dans l'état de dénuement le plus parfait, ayant pour me couvrir la chemise et les effets que j'avois sur mon corps en partant d'Alexandrie. Ainsi, pour cet objet, je te prierai de confier à Douzelot, s'il veut bien s'en charger, mes malles; ou dans le cas contraire, tu pourrois les confier à un des officiers chargés de faire parvenir les effets des demi-brigades. Donne-moi, je t'en prie, quelques détails sur ce qu'est devenu Daure, mon argent, et mes bijoux : je n'en sçais pas un mot.

A présent que je t'ai parlé de mes affaires, je te dirai, qu'il m'est presque impossible de te donner une idée de ce que nous avons éprouvé; souffrances sur souffrances, privations, mortifications, fatigues, nous avons tout éprouvé de la première main. Les trois quarts du tems mourir de faim. Tel est le tableau succinct de mon existence depuis que je t'ai quitté!

Quoique nos moyens soient plus grands, notre existence n'en est pas plus heureuse. Eloigné de tous nos amis, je

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ne te parle pas du succès de nos armes : tu en entendras assez parler.

Adieu, mon cher ami, penses à ce que je te demande ; songe que je suis nud, et que tu me rendras le service le plus signalé.

Ton Ami,

COLBERT.

P. S. Mille choses à Tellier.

Au Commissaire des Guerres,
COLLASSE, *chargé du Service de la Place d'Alexandrie.*

Terzi, July 25th.

COLBERT *to his Friend* COLLASSE.

I HASTEN, my dear friend, to give thee some account of myself, and to say a few words to thee on the hardships and dangers we have experienced.

The uncertainty in which I still remain respecting the fate of my baggage, gives me from time to time the greatest uneasiness. I am almost in a state of nakedness, having nothing to cover me but my shirt, and the clothes I had on when I left Alexandria. I beg thee, therefore, to send me my trunks by *Douzelot*,* if he

* Douzelot's rank is not mentioned. He is the person to whom Savary's Letter is addressed (see No. XII.), and appears to be in some office of consequence.

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will have the goodness to take charge of them; if not, by one of the officers commissioned to bring up the baggage of the demi-brigade. Do, prithee, contrive to let me know what is become of *Daure*, of my money, and my jewels: I cannot hear one syllable about them.

So much for my private affairs; I must now tell thee that it is hardly possible to form an idea of what we have gone through: sufferings upon sufferings, privations, mortifications, fatigues, we have exhausted them all! three-fourths of the time we have been dying with hunger! Such is the correct, but rapid sketch of my life, since we parted.

At present, indeed, our means are more ample, but our condition is not therefore more happy. Remote from all our friends, I shall not enter into the details of our military successes, thou wilt hear enough of them from other quarters.

Adieu, my dear friend: think of my request: consider that I am absolutely naked, and that thou wilt render me the most essential service.

Thine,

COLBERT.

P. S. Remember me to Tellier.

To the Commissary at War,
COLLASSE, *Superintendant of the town, &c. of Alexandria.*

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No. VII.

Au Grand Caire, le 8 Thermidor.

Au Général BOURNONVILLE, *No. 61, Rue du Faux-bourg-Honoré, à Paris.*

NOUS sommes au Caire depuis 4 jours, mon cher Général; notre marche a été très-pénible, sous un ciel brûlant, sur des sables, et dans des déserts arides, souvent sans eau, et sans pain : une attaque de vive force a pris Alexandrie ; un combat vif, mais d'un instant, a décidé de la prise du Caire.

Je me porte aussi bien qu'il est possible de le faire, dans un climat étranger, et qui ne me convient nullement ; nous allons probablement prendre un peu de repos ici ; alors seulement, nous pourrons distinguer l'effet de la fatigue, de l'influence du climat, et décider si nous vivrons long-temps ici.

Je ne vous écris pas, mon cher Général, autant que je le désirerois ; mais il faut que la lettre soit courte pour qu'elle puisse arriver : peut-être la mienne est-elle déjà trop longue. Oserois-je vous prier de mander à ma famille, que vous avez reçu de mes nouvelles.

Croyez, mon cher Général, à tout mon attachement ; mille lieues de distance ne l'ont point affoibli.

D.

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TRANSLATION.

Grand Cairo, July 26th.

To General BOURNONVILLE,* *No. 61, Rue de Faux-bourg-Honoré, at Paris.*

WE have been at Cairo four days, my dear General; our march was of the most distressing kind, under a burning sky, over sands, and arid deserts, without water, and without bread! Alexandria was taken by storm, and Cairo fell into our hands after a brisk but short engagement.

I am as well as it is possible to be, in a climate so different from our own as this, and which by no means agrees with me. We shall probably recruit ourselves a little here; we shall then be enabled to ascertain what effects fatigue, and the influence of the climate will have on our constitutions, and thus to decide if we can live here for any length of time.

* This is a confidential letter, and seems to shew that Bournonville was a little in the secret of the expedition, hence the hint about the period that a Frenchman might live in Egypt, &c. The remark on the danger of writing long letters we are not quite certain we understand. It is probable (but this is a mere guess) that it was feared they might excite the suspicions of the Commander in Chief, or of the Directory. We have proofs before us, however, that all which were destined to be put into the post-office in France, are single letters, while most of those which were trusted to private conveyance (by far the most numerous) are double, treble, and sometimes more.

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I have not written to you, my dear General, so much at large as I could have wished; but if we desire to have our letters reach their place of destination, we must make them short: mine is perhaps, already too long. May I venture to request you to let my family know that you have heard from me.

Believe, my dear General, in my entire attachment; no distance, however great, can weaken it.

D.*

* This is the only letter which appears with a single signature. The author had undoubtedly his reasons for it.

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No. VIII.

Au Quartier général du Caire, le 9 Thermidor, an 6.

BONAPARTE, *Membre de l'Institut National, Général en Chef, à l'Amiral* BRUEYS.

APRE'S des marches bien fatiguantes, et quelques combats, nous sommes enfin arrivés au Caire. J'ai été spécialement content de la conduite du Chef de Division, Perrée, et je l'ai nommé Contre Amiral.

Je suis instruit d'Alexandrie, qu'enfin on a trouvé une passe telle qu'on pouvoit la désirer; et je ne doute pas que vous ne soyez, à l'heure qu'il est, dans le port avec toute l'escadre.

Vous ne devez avoir aucune inquiétude sur les subsistances de l'armée navale; ce pays-ci est un des plus riches que l'on puisse s'imaginer, en blés, légumes, riz, et bestiaux.

J'imagine que demain ou après, je recevrai de vos nouvelles; je n'en ai point eu depuis mon départ d'Alexandrie.

Dès que j'aurai reçu de vous une lettre qui me fera connoître ce que vous avez fait, et votre position, je vous ferai passer des ordres sur ce que nous avons encore à faire.

L'Etat-Major vous aura, sans doute, envoyé un rapport sur notre derniere victoire.

Je pense que vous avez une frégate qui croise devant Damiette; comme j'envoie prendre possession de cette

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ville, je vous prie de donner l'ordre à l'officier qui commande cette frégate de se rapprocher le plus possible, et d'entrer en communication avec nos troupes, qui y seront lorsque vous recevrez cette lettre.

Faites partir le courier que je vous envoie pour prendre terre à l'endroit qui paraitra le plus convenable, selon les nouvelles que vous avez de l'ennemi, et les vents qui regnent dans cette saison.

Je désirerais que vous puissiez y envoyer une frégate qui aurait ordre de partir 48 heures après son arrivée dans le port, soit de Malte soit d'Ancone, en recommandant à l'officier qui la commanderoit de nous apporter les journaux et toutes les nouvelles que lui donneraient nos agens.

J'ai fait filer sur Alexandrie une grande quantité de denrées pour solder le nolise des bâtiments de transport.

Mille choses à Ganteaume, et à Casabianca.

Je vous salue.

BONAPARTE.

TRANSLATION.

Head Quarters, Cairo, July 27.

BONAPARTE, *Member of the National Institute, Commander in Chief, to Admiral* BRUEYS.

AFTER a number of very fatiguing marches, and some fighting, we are at length arrived at Cairo. I am ex-

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tremely well satisfied with the conduct of the Chief of Division, Perrée, and I have therefore promoted him to the rank of Rear Admiral.

I hear from Alexandria* that a channel, such as we could wish, has been discovered; and by this time, I flatter myself, you are already in the port with all your fleet.

There is no occasion for you to be under any uneasiness with respect to the subsistence of your men. This country is rich in wheat, pulse, rice, and cattle, almost beyond imagination.

I persuade myself, that to-morrow, or the day after at the farthest, I shall hear from you,—which I have not yet done since my departure from Alexandria.

The instant you inform me what you have done, and in what situation you are, you shall receive further orders from me respecting what we have yet to do.

Some of the staff-officers have undoubtedly given you an account of our late victory.

I take it for granted, that you have a frigate cruizing off Damietta. As I am sending troops to take possession of that town, I must request you to order the captain of

* We shall not remark on the general strain of coldness that runs through this letter; but merely call the reader's attention for a moment to the passage we have marked: "I hear," he says, "from Alexandria," &c. It looks as if the General's anxiety to detain the fleet had induced him to depart from the line of fair conduct, and to tamper, unknown to the Admiral, with some of the officers at Alexandria. Brueys (see his letter to the minister of marine, No. IV.) had already employed two persons very well qualified (as he writes) to examine the ground, and their report had not yet been made; so that there is something extremely suspicious in the premature information thus obtained by Bonaparte.

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the frigate to keep as near the land as possible, and to open a communication with our forces; who will be in possession of the place by the time this reaches you.

Send off the courier whom I have dispatched to you immediately: put him on shore wherever you think it best.—In this, you will of course be guided by what you hear of the enemy's fleet, and by the winds which prevail at this season.

I could wish that you would send him in a frigate, which should have positive orders to stay no longer than eight-and-forty hours in any port where she might land him (whether Malta or Ancona)—in this case, you might charge the captain to bring us back all the journals, and all the information which our agents may have collected.

I have dispatched by the Nile, a prodigious quantity of provisions to Alexandria, to pay for the freight of the transports there.*

Say a thousand kind things to Ganteaume and Casabianca.

I salute you.

BONAPARTE.†

* See the next letter.

† This is the letter of which Bonaparte speaks in his dispatches of the 19th of August. If the reader has gone through it attentively, which we hope he has, we will beg leave to ask him two questions;—first, whether he finds any mention of returning to Corfou in it, which the General says there was?—and secondly, whether the whole tenour of it does not militate against his (Bonaparte's) having the smallest idea of such a thing? When he has answered these two questions, as we think he must, we will not trouble him for his opinion of the General's veracity.

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No. IX.

Au Quartier général du Caire, le 9 Thermidor, an 6.

BONAPARTE, *Membre de l'Institut National, Général en Chef, au Général de Division,* KLEBER.

NOUS avons au Caire, Citoyen Général, une très-belle monnoye. Nous aurions besoin de tous les lingots que nous avons laissés à Alexandrie, en échange de quelque numéraire que les négocians nous ont donné. Je vous prie donc de faire réunir tous les négocians auxquels ont été remis les dits lingots, et de les leur redemander. Je leur donnerai en place, des blés et du riz, dont nous avons une quantité immense.

Notre pauvreté en numéraire est égale à notre richesse en denrées ; ce qui nous oblige absolument à retirer du commerce le plus de lingots et d'argent que nous pouvons, et à leur donner en échange des denrées.

Je n'ai pas reçu de vos nouvelles depuis mon départ d'Alexandrie. Vous aurez eu bien des fausses nouvelles, de l'inquiétude. Je vous ai écrit souvent par les gens du pays, mais je crains que les Arabes ne les aient interceptées, comme je pense qu'ils ont intercepté les votres. J'attends de vos nouvelles avec quelque impatience. Vous en aurez sans doute en ce moment reçu de France.

Nous avons essuyé plus de fatigues que beaucoup de gens n'avoient le courage de les supporter. Mais dans

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ce moment-ci nous nous reposons au Caire, qui ne laisse pas de nous offrir beaucoup de ressources. Toutes les divisions y sont réunies.

L'Etat-Major vous aura instruit de l'événement militaire qui a précédé notre entrée au Caire; il a été assez brillant. Nous avons jetté deux mille Mamelouks des mieux montés dans le Nil.

L'armée a grand besoin de ses bagages. J'ai envoyé l'Adjudant-Général, Almeyras, avec un bataillon de la 85, et une grande quantité de vivres pour l'escadre, à Rosette. Il est chargé d'embarquer à son retour, tous les effets de l'armée, et de les escorter jusqu'au Caire.

Donnez ordre aux officiers des Etats-Majors des corps chargés des dépôts, de les envoyer à Rosette.

Envoyez-nous nos imprimeries Arabe, et Françoise. Veillez à ce que l'on embarque tous les vins, eaux de vie, tentes, souliers, &c. Envoyez tous ces objets par mer à Rosette, et vû la croissance du Nil, ils remonteront facilement jusqu'au Caire.

J'attends des nouvelles de votre santé; je désire qu'elle se rétablisse promptement et que vous veniez bientôt nous rejoindre.

J'ai écrit à Louis de partir pour Rosette avec tous mes effets.

A l'instant même je trouve dans un jardin des Mamelouks une lettre de Louis, datée du 21 Messidor, ce qui me prouve qu'un de vos couriers a été intercepté par des Mamelouks.

Salut.

BONAPARTE.

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TRANSLATION.

Head Quarters, Cairo, July 27.

BONAPARTE, *Member of the National Institute, Commander in Chief, to the General of Division,* KLEBER.

Citizen General,

THERE is here a very excellent mint. We shall again have occasion for all the ingots* which we left with the merchants of Alexandria in exchange for the specie of the country; I request you, therefore, to call together all the merchants with whom the said ingots were exchanged, and to re-demand them. I will give them in lieu of the bullion, wheat and rice, of which we have immense quantities.

Our poverty in specie is equal to our riches in commodities: this circumstance absolutely compels me to take as many ingots as possible from the merchants, and to give them corn, &c. in exchange.†

* These ingots were formed from the gold and silver previously stolen by this rapacious freebooter from the church of St. John, where the Maltese kept their public treasury. See the Letter of the Bailly of Teigna, and the Manifestoes of the different commanders.

† To force one kind of plunder on the merchants, by way of payment, and then to take it from them again in exchange for some other which can be more conveniently spared, is a proceeding so perfectly consonant to the French ideas of justice, and has been so frequently employed by them, wherever they have had power to put it in practice, as their good friends and allies can testify, that it scarce deserves notice.

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I have heard nothing from you since I left Alexandria. You have doubtless had many idle rumours, and alarms. I have sent you several letters by the people of the country, which I fear have been intercepted

But we would fain ask the General how the country can be poor in specie, when it appears from his letter to the Directory, written only three days before the present, that every Mameluc had three or four hundred pounds in his pocket. "The Mameloucs," says he, (see all the papers of the 31st of October) "shewed great bravery. They defended their fortunes, for "*there was not one of them* on whom our soldiers did not find "three, four, and five hundred louis"!!!

Now it appears from the same account, that the number of Mameloucs engaged was 6000. It is but fair to suppose that those who escaped were as rich as those who fell: 6000, therefore, multiplied by 400, the average of their fortunes, gives a total of 2,400,000 louis—no despicable sum for a country so poor in specie; and probably not a great deal less than what might be found in the pockets, or even in the possession, of the same number of people in any army in France—a country, as we all know, so rich in specie!

Further; the soldiers must have found on the 2000 Mameloucs, who, as the General says in his letter to the Directory, were killed, 800,000 louis, by the fairest calculation; now we think that some method might have been found to persuade them to resign their plunder for a time (especially as they seem to enjoy few opportunities of wasting it); and thus to have spared Bonaparte the mortification, and Kleber the infamy, of compelling the merchants of Alexandria to take what they do not want, in exchange for what they cannot spare!

Shall we now be serious? We do not believe that the Mameloucs had a single louis about them: rich arms and clothing they certainly had; and if the French should ever return home (as, if it please God, they never will), they may probably turn them to some account: at present, all these fine things are mere incumbrances to them.

We do not know the reason of it, but we constantly observe

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by the Arabs, as has most probably been the case with those which you have sent me. I am now all impatience to hear from you; as you have undoubtedly by this time received intelligence from France.

We have undergone more hardships than many among us had courage to support: at present, we are recovering ourselves a little at Cairo, which is not deficient in supplies. All our troops have joined.

The Officers of the Staff will have acquainted you with the military transaction which preceded our entry into this place. It was tolerably brilliant. Two thousand of the best mounted Mameloucs were driven into the Nile.

The army is in the greatest want of its baggage. I have dispatched the Adjutant-General Almeyras with a battalion of the 85th, and an immense quantity of provisions for the fleet, to Rosetta. He is commissioned on his return to take on board his flotilla, all the baggage, &c. of the army, and to escort it to Cairo.

Order the Staff Officers of the different corps, charged with the care of the magazines, to send them all to Rosetta.

Send us our Arabic and French printing-presses. See that they embark all the wine, brandy, tents, shoes,* &c.

that none of the army attempt to cajole Kleber. He is almost the only one to whom things are represented as they really are—And Bonaparte, whose letter to the Cockneys of Paris, representing Egypt as almost paved with gold, was scarce dry; sits down to tell this sagacious and penetrating General, that there is none to be found in it; and that he has no resource but the plundered ingots of Malta!

* We have already observed that not one of these articles can reach Cairo. The port of Alexandria is hermetically sealed, and

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Send round all these articles by sea to Rosetta: and as the Nile is now upon its increase, they will find no difficulty in passing up that river to Cairo.

I am anxious to hear of your health. I hope it will be speedily re-established, and that you will be soon in a condition to come and join us.

I have written to Louis * to set out for Rosetta immediately, with all my baggage.

Since I wrote this, I have found in a garden belonging to one of the Mameloucs, a letter from Louis—this convinces me that one of your couriers has been intercepted by these people.

Health.

BONAPARTE.

however urgent the wants of the army may be, they must learn to bear them.

* His brother. He alludes to Boursienne's letter, see No. XIV.

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No. X.

Au Quartier général du Caire,
le 9 Thermidor, an 6.

BONAPARTE, *Membre de l'Institut National, Général en Chef, au Général de Division,* KLEBER.

Vous trouverez ci-joint, Citoyen Général, copie de l'organisation provisoire de l'Egypte.

Vous nommerez le Divan, l'Aga, la Compagnie de 60 hommes qu'il doit avoir avec lui.

Vous ferez faire l'inventaire de tous les bien, meubles et immeubles qui appartenaient aux Mamelouks. L'Intendant et l'Agent Français vont se rendre incessamment à leur poste.

Vous ferez faire la levée de tous les chevaux pour la remonte de la cavalerie.

Je vous prie de prendre toutes les mesures nécessaires pour maintenir, la tranquillité et le bon ordre dans la province d'Alexandrie,

Salut.

BONAPARTE.

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(*Copie.*)

Au Quartier général du Caire,
le 9 Thermidor, an 6.

BONAPARTE *Membre de l'Institut National, Général en Chef.*

ORDONNE.

Article Premier.

Il y aura dans chaque province de l'Egypte un Divan composé de 7 personnes, chargés de veiller aux intérêts de la province, de me faire part de toutes les plaintes qu'il pourroit y avoir ; d'empêcher les guerres que se font les villages entre eux, de surveiller les mauvais sujets, de les châtier en demandant la force au Commandant Français, et d'éclairer le peuple toutes les fois que cela sera nécessaire.

Article 2.

Il y aura dans chaque province un Aga des Janissaires qui se tiendra toujours avec le Commandant Français. Il aura avec lui une compagnie de 60 hommes du pays armés, avec lesquels il se portera partout où il sera nécessaire pour maintenir le bon ordre, et faire rester chacun dans l'obéissance et la tranquillité.

Article 3.

Il y aura dans chaque province un Intendant chargé de la perception du *Miri* et du *Feddam*, et de tous les revenus qui appartenaient ci-devant aux Mamelouks, et

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qui appartiennent aujourd'hui à la République. Il aura chez lui le nombre d'Agens nécessaires.

Article 4.

Il y aura auprès du dit Intendant un Agent François, tant pour correspondre avec l'administration des finances, que pour faire exécuter tous les ordres qu'il pourroit recevoir, et se trouver toujours au fait de l'administration.

(Signé) BONAPARTE.

Pour copie conforme.

BONAPARTE.

Head Quarters, Cairo, July 27.

BONAPARTE, *Member of the National Institute, Commander in Chief, to the General of Division,* KLEBER.

ANNEXED to this, Citizen General, you will find a copy of the provisional organization of Egypt.*

* We scarce know whether this famous code, which we do not yet despair of hearing some enlightened senator call "a masterpiece of human wisdom and integrity," be most distinguished for its folly or atrocity. The people whom Bonaparte loudly professes he came to relieve, are to have the liberty of paying the taxes which they paid to the Mameloucs, to an Intendant assisted by a company of fusileers, in the shape of agents, who, if they (the people) do not appear fully sensible of the blessing thus thrust upon them (as, God knows, may very innocently be the

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You will name the Divan, the Aga, and the company of sixty men which he is to have with him.

You will cause an inventory to be taken of all the goods, moveables and immoveables, which belonged to the Mameloucs. The Intendant, and the French Agent are on the point of repairing to their posts.

You will order a general levy of horses to be made, to remount the cavalry.

I entreat you to take every precaution to preserve tranquillity and good order in the province of Alexandria.

Health.

BONAPARTE.

case!) are, in the words of this great constitution-monger, "to enlighten them!"

The reader will find more on this head in our Introduction, to which we willingly refer him. To say the truth, we are glad to escape from the subject, as we contemplate with no agreeable feelings, the spectacle of a man (though that man be Bonaparte), thus ignorantly, and wantonly, and barbarously playing with the happiness of a nation, which never injured, perhaps never heard of him, or his rapacious masters. One consolation yet remains, and we honestly confess that we have not Stoicism enough, to deny ourselves the gratification of enjoying it by anticipation. Egypt is the last country that Bonaparte will ever insult with the mockery of liberty: he has run his career of impiety and deceit, of pillage and desolation:—

"The sun sets on his fortunes red and bloody,
"And everlasting night begins to close him."

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(*The Copy.*)

Head Quarters, Cairo, July 27.

BONAPARTE, *Member of the National Institute, Commander in Chief.*

ORDERS.

Article 1.

There shall be in each province of Egypt, a Divan composed of seven persons, charged to watch over the interests of the province, to inform me of every grievance, to prevent the contests which arise between the different villages, to keep a steady eye over the turbulent and seditious, to punish them by calling in the military force under the French Commander, and to enlighten the people as often as it shall be found requisite.

Article 2.

There shall be in each province an Aga of the Janizaries, who shall constantly reside with the French Commandant. He shall have with him a company of armed men, natives of the country; with whom he shall proceed wherever his services may be necessary to maintain good order, and to keep every one in tranquillity and obedience.

Article 3.

There shall be in every province an Intendant, charged with the collection of the *Miri* and the *Feddam*; and generally of all the revenues which belonged heretofore to the Mameloucs, and which appertain at present to

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the Republic. He shall have with him the necessary number of agents.

Article 4.

There shall always be with the said Intendant, a French Agent; for the purpose of corresponding with the Administrator of the Finances, for insuring the execution of such orders as he may receive, and for acquiring a perfect knowledge of the system of administration.

(Signed) BONAPARTE.

A true copy.

BONAPARTE.

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No. XI.

A Boulac, près le Caire, le 9 Thermidor, an 6.

A KLEBER.

Nous sommes enfin arrivés, mon ami, au pays tant desiré! qu'il est loin de ce que l'imagination même la plus raisonnable se l'étoit représenté; l'horrible villasse du Caire est peuplée d'une canaille paresseuse, accroupie tout le jour devant leurs huttes infames, fumant, prenant du caffé, ou mangeant des pasticques, et buvant de l'eau.

On peut se perdre très-aisément pendant tout un jour dans les rues puantes et étroites de cette fameuse capitale. Le seul quartier des Mamelouks est habitable. Le Général en Chef y demeure dans une assez belle maison de Bey. J'ai écrit au Chef de Brigade Dupuis actuellement Général et Commandant au Caire, pour qu'il t'y fit réserver une maison; je n'ai pas encore sa réponse.

La division est à une espace de ville appellée Boulac près le Nil; une demie lieue du Caire: nous sommes tous logés dans des maisons abandonnées et fort vilaines, Dugua seulement est passablement.

Le Général Lannes vient de recevoir l'ordre d'aller prendre le commandement de la division Menou, à la place de Vial, qui va à Damiette avec un bataillon: il

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m'assure qu'il refusera. Le 2e légere et le Général Verdier sont en position près les Pyramides, sur la rive gauche du Nil, jusqu'à ce que le point qu'il occupe soit fortifié pour y placer un poste de cent hommes.

On doit établir un pont vis-à-vis Gizeh ; cet endroit est en ce moment occupé par la réserve d'artillerie et du génie. La division Regnier est au devant du Caire, à deux ou trois lieues ; celle de Desaix va venir au vieux Caire, celle de Bon est à la citadelle, et celle de Menou en ville.

Tu n'as pas d'idée des marches fatiguantes que nous avons faites pour arriver au Caire ; arrivant toujours à trois ou quatre heures après-midi, après avoir souffert toute la chaleur, la plus part du temps sans vivres, étant obligés de glaner ce que les divisions qui nous précédoient avoient laissé dans les horribles villages qu'elles avoient souvent pillés ; harcelés toute la marche par cette horde de voleurs appellés Bédouins qui nous ont tué des hommes et des officiers, à vingt-cinq pas de la colonne. L'Aide de Camp du Général *Dugua* appellé *Geroret* a été assassiné avant hier de cette manière, en allant porter un ordre à un peloton de grenadiers à une portée de fusil du camp ; c'est une guerre, ma foi, pire que celle de la Vendée !

Nous avons eu combat le jour de notre arrivée sur le Nil à la hauteur du Caire. Les Mamelouks qui avoient eu l'esprit de se placer sur la rive gauche du Nil nous ont presenté le combat, et ils ont été rossés ; cette bataille se nomme celle des Pyramides ; ils ont perdu sept ou huit-cents hommes sans exagération aucune, il y a eu une grande partie de ce nombre qui se noyèrent en voulant passer le Nil à la nage.

Je desire bien savoir comment tu te portes, et quand

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tu seras en état de venir prendre le commandement de la division, qui est en de bien foibles mains. Tout le monde t'y désire, et chacun se rélâche singulièrement du service ; je fais ce que je puis pour retenir chaque partie liée entre elle, mais cela va très-mal. Les troupes ne sont ni payées ni nourries, et tu devine aisément combien cela attire de murmures ; ils sont peut-être plus forts encore de la part des officiers. On nous fait espérer qui d'ici à huit jours, les administrations seront assez bien organisées pour faire exactement les distributions ; mais cela est bien long.

Si tu viens bientôt ce que je souhaite ardemment, fais toi escorter même sur ta barque par des fusilliers qui puissent répondre aux attaques des Bédouins, qui ne manqueront surement pas de se présenter sur la rive du Nil pour essayer de te fusiller dans ta barque.

Le Commissaire Ordonnateur Sucy a eu le bras cassé sur la flotille en remontant au Caire. Tu pourrois peut-être revenir avec les chalouppes canonnières, et les germes qui sont allé chercher les effets des troupes à Alexandrie. Arrive ! arrive ! et arrive !

Tout à toi.

DAMAS.

Amitié à Auguste, et à ses Collegues.

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TRANSLATION.

Boulac, near Cairo, July 27th,

To KLEBER.*

WE are arrived at length, my friend, at the spot so much and so eagerly desired! How different is it from what the most cool and temperate imagination had figured it to be! This execrable dog-hole of a city is inhabited by a lazy set of wretches, who squat all day before their filthy huts, smoking, and taking coffee, or eating pumpions, and drinking water.

It is easy enough to lose ones-self for a whole day in the stinking and narrow streets of this illustrious capital. The quarter of the Mameloucs is the only one which is habitable; the Commander in Chief resides there in a tolerable handsome house, which belonged to one of the Beys. I have written to the Chief of Brigade, Dupuis,† at present General and Governor of Cairo, to reserve a house for thee. I have not yet received his answer.

The division is quartered in a kind of town, called Boulac, upon the Nile, about half a league from Cairo. We are all lodged in houses deserted by the owners, and

* This well written letter is from one of the best officers in the French service; it is another proof of what we observed in a former page, that Kleber had no attempts made on his credulity; every thing is represented to him in its true light.

† See a letter from him, No. XXIII.

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wretched enough in all conscience. Dugua's is the only one which is tolerable.

General Lannes has just received an order to take the command of Menou's division, in the room of Vial, who is going to Damietta with a battalion. He assures me that he will not accept it. The 2d light battalion, and General Verdier, are stationed near the Pyramids, on the left bank of the Nile, till the position which he occupies can be fortified, so as to receive a garrison of a hundred men.

A bridge is intended to be thrown over the river, nearly opposite Gizeh. The spot is at present occupied by the reserve of the artillery and engineers. Regnier's division is stationed two or three leagues in front of Cairo; Desaix's is about to occupy Old Cairo; Bon's is stationed in the citadel, and Menou's in the city.

Thou hast not an idea of the fatiguing marches we made to get to Cairo; never halting till three or four o'clock in the afternoon, after broiling in the sun all day; the greatest part of the time without food; obliged to glean what the divisions which preceded us had left in those detestable villages, which they had frequently pillaged; and harassed during the whole march by those hordes of robbers called Bedouins, who killed not only our men, but our officers, at five-and-twenty paces from the main body. The Aid-de-camp of General Dugua, called Geroret, was shot in this manner as he was carrying an order to a file of grenadiers, not a musket shot from the camp. It is a more destructive war, on my soul! than that of La Vendée.

We had an engagement the day we arrived in the neighbourhood of Cairo. The Mameloucs, who had

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the good sense * to place themselves on the left bank of the Nile, offered us battle, and got a good beating. We call it the Battle of the Pyramids; they lost (to speak without exaggeration) seven or eight hundred men; of these, a great portion perished in attempting to swim across the Nile.

I wish very much to know how thou art, and when thou think'st thou shalt be able to come and take the command of the division, which is in very feeble hands.†

* *L'Esprit* in the original; Damas speaks ironically. It is evident that if those brave and unfortunate men had not entered into a pitched battle, but retired before the enemy to the right bank of the Nile, and contented themselves with harassing them, and disputing the passage, the whole army must in this case have been destroyed. Nothing, in short, but a blind reliance on their own courage, and a total ignorance of the European manner of fighting, could have induced between three and four thousand men (for this was their utmost number) to attack 24,000 of the best troops of France, furnished with artillery, and bristled with an impenetrable fence of bayonets. That they should be defeated, is not so wonderful as that they should be able to do any injury at all to the French—which we yet find they did.

Bonaparte reckons his loss, in his letter to the Directory, at 150 killed and wounded; in another letter (not to the Directory) he states the number to be 210; most probably it was greater still. We are glad, however, to find from the authentic statement before us, that the loss of the Mameloucs was not so great. Damas reckons it at 700 or 800 men, and even so, he is apprehensive that he shall be suspected of exaggeration. This is more than was necessary to teach us to read the rhapsodies of the Commander in Chief *cum grano.*—

† These feeble hands are Dugua's; the division was intrusted to him, in consequence of Kleber's wound, which detained that General at Alexandria. The remainder of this letter is highly important.

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Every body is desirous of having thee here. There is a general relaxation in the service: I do all I can to preserve unity among the different parties; but all goes very ill. The troops are neither paid nor fed; and thou may'st easily guess what murmurs this occasions:—they are loudest perhaps among the officers. We are cajoled with promises, that in a week's time the administrations will be sufficiently organized to enable them to make their distributions regularly—but a week is still too long.

If thou com'st soon, which I most ardently wish, take care to be escorted even on board, by a party of fusileers, capable of securing thee from the attacks of the Arabs, who will most assuredly make their appearance on the banks of the Nile, and endeavour to destroy thee in thy bark.

The first Commissary, Sucy, had his arm fractured on board the flotilla, in his passage to Cairo. Thou may'st perhaps come to us in the gun-boats, lighters, &c. which have been dispatched to bring round the baggage of the army from Alexandria.—Come, come, prithee come!

Thine entirely.

DAMAS.

My regards to Augustus and his Colleagues.

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No. XII.

Du Grand Caire, le 9 Thermidor, an 6.

Le Général Desaix me charge, mon cher Douzelot, de te recommander de ne pas oublier ses effets, et nous croyons qu'il est inutile de te recommander les nôtres. Nous les attendons comme le messie ; ne laisse absolument rien.

4 Malles au Général Desaix.

1 Porte-manteau, idem.

1 Forme à drapeau, avec une petite boîte.

1 Secrétaire au Général.

2 Matelats—1 couverte de drap blanc.

1 Paire de draps.

1 Housse, et 1 coussin de voiture. La voiture sur le No. 54.

16 Caisses de sapin, marquées au Général Desaix, contenant du vin.

1 Tonneau goudronné sur les deux fonds, contenant du vin.

1 Barril de vinaigre.

5 Bouteilles de vin, dans le coffre du cabinet du Citoyen Le Roi.

Tout cela étoit dans la soute du cuisinier de Daure.

A Clément.

1 Malle—il y a des adresses.

1 Porte-manteau—son hamac.

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A Rap.

1 Vache, 1 malle, et son hamac.

A Savary.

1 malle quarrée noire.
1 Id.—longue.
1 Porte-manteau bleu.
} mon domestique, je l'attends malade ou non.

1 Caisse contenant des selles, elle est quarrée platte forme en sapin, elle ferme avec une serrure.

Mon hamac si il est possible, au moins mon matelat, ma couverture, mes draps, et mon traversin.

Si tu trouve moyen d'acheter quelques bouteilles de bon rum, fais-le.

Nous sommes sans cuisinier, si tu en trouve un, amène-le.

Dis à ton domestique de passer aux bâtiments de nos chevaux, d'y prendre les effets de Joly-cœur, et de demander au Citoyen Martin maréchal des logis au 20me de dragons, le porte-manteau du dragon Alex. Timber qui panse ici mon cheval.

Si tu éprouvois des difficultés pour embarquer la voiture, le Général te prie de la débarquer, la faire monter, et la placer en lieu sûr à Alexandrie.

Ton frère me charge de te dire d'apporter tout ce qui lui appartient, ainsi qu'à toi, de ne rien oublier—absolument rien.

N'oublie pas ceux de Bourdon.

Si tu ne peux pas embarquer ton cheval vend-le, ou remets-le à l'artillerie, en prenant un reçu ; nous t'en trouverons un ici ; ton frère en a 3.

Voici une chose dont nous te prions de t'occuper : en traversant les déserts nous eumes une allerte de nuit, dans laquelle nous perdimes la jument du Général De-

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saix, sellée, bridée du 7me hussards ; les deux chevaux de ton frère ; le mien sellé, venant du 20me dragons, une jument noire ; celui de Rap du 7me hussards. Celui de Clément, courte queue. Ils prirent tous la fuite ; d'après les rapports, ils ont été arrêtés à Rosette, et mis au dépôt de l'artillerie ; si en passant tu pouvois les découvrir, en prendre des reçus, l'on nous les payeroit ici.

Ton frère me charge de te dire ce qui suit : nous vivons ici beaucoup plus mal que nous n'avons jamais vécu de la vie. Pas une goute de vin, ni d'eau-de-vie. —Ton frère te récommande de faire en sorte d'en faire débarquer des bâtiments de Civita Vecchia, le plus que tu pourras, et si il le faut un tonneau de l'un et de l'autre : ne rien négliger auprès de Colasse.

Souviens-toi,—vin, eau-de-vie, et rum ; il y a un siècle que nous en avons le plus grand besoin. Il y en a ici peu extrêmement mauvais, hors de prix, et l'on ne peut s'en procurer.

Une chose que l'on te prie de faire, c'est d'embarquer les ballots de souliers, et de chemises de la division, comme équipages du Général Desaix ; les soldats en sont nuds—et on les prendroit pour d'autres.

Si tu as besoin d'argent, sers-toi du mien, et tiens en compte.

Adieu, nous t'attendons ; fais pour le mieux, surtout souviens-toi que nous n'aurons de vin, et d'eau-de-vie, que ce que tu apporteras, et que sur les 16 caisses de sapin, 14 sont au Général Bonaparte. Au nom de Dieu apportes-en du convoi, et de l'eau-de-vie. Toute l'armée a la diarrhée à force de boire de l'eau.——Pour Dieu, du vin, de l'eau-de-vie, et du rum, et n'oublie pas les effets du Général Beliard : ne lui laisse rien là-bas,

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que le moins possible.—Pour Mireur, tu sais qu'il a été tué.

Adieu.

SAVARY.

L'on vous envoye 60 barques du Nil; il pourroit se faire que l'on prît encore des tartanes à Alexandrie, dans ce cas il faudroit tâcher de te mettre sur une. —Amène mon domestique malade ou non, je le guérirai ici.

TRANSLATION.

Grand Cairo, July 27.

GENERAL Desaix enjoins me, my dear Douzelot, to request thee not to forget his baggage; and we are persuaded that it is unnecessary to put thee in mind of our own. We look for it as anxiously as for the coming of the Messiah—leave nothing behind, positively nothing.

Belonging to General Desaix.

4 Trunks.
1 Portmanteau.
1 Forme* with curtains, and a small box.
1 Writing desk.
2 Mattresses, 1 white coverlet, 1 pair of sheets.

* Kind of settee, or stuffed cushion, to sleep on.

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1 Horse cloth, 1 chaise seat, and a chaise on board the transport, No. 54.

16 Deal cases, marked with the General's name, containing wine.

1 Tun pitched at both ends, and containing wine.

1 Barrel of vinegar.

5 Bottles of wine in a coffer in Citizen Le Roi's closet.

All which you will find in the bread-room of the ship.

To Clement.

1 Trunk—his direction is on it.

1 Portmanteau, and his hammock.

To Rap.

1 Large leather case, 1 trunk, and his hammock.

To Savary.

1 Black square trunk.
1 Ditto, long.
1 Blue portmanteau } Sick or not, I must have my servant.

1 Case containing saddles—it is a flat square one, and shuts with a lock.

My hammock if possible, and if not, my mattress, my coverlet, my sheets, and my bolster.

If thou hast an opportunity of purchasing a few bottles of good rum, do it.

We have no cook here; if thou can'st find one, bring him with thee.

Tell thy servant to go on board the transport where the horses are, and fetch Joli-cœur's baggage; tell him too, to ask Citizen Martin, quarter-master of the 20th dragoons, for the portmanteau of the dragoon,

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Alex. Timber, who is with me at present, and looks after my horse.

If thou find'st any difficulty in embarking Desaix's carriage, the General wishes thee to take it on shore, have it put together, and then lay it up in some safe place at Alexandria.

Thy brother charges me to tell thee to bring every thing that belongs to him, as well as to thyself, and to forget nothing—positively nothing.

Do not forget Bourdon's things.

If thou canst not embark thy horse, sell him, or turn him over to the artillery, and take a receipt for him. We will find thee one here; thy brother has three.

We wish thee to pay a little attention to what follows: In crossing the Desert one night, we had our quarters beat up, and during the confusion, lost a mare of General Desaix's, saddled and bridled (of the 7th hussars), thy brother's two horses, my own, saddled (of the 20th dragoons), a black mare, one of Rap's (of the 7th hussars), and one of Clement's, dock-tailed; they all galloped off, and, as we hear, were stopped at Rosetta, and sent to the depôt of the artillery. If thou canst discover them in passing that way, take receipts for them, and we shall be paid the money here.

I write what follows, at the request, and, indeed, in the words of thy brother; "We live here more wretchedly "than ever we lived in our lives; we have not one drop "of wine, nor even brandy." Thy brother intreats thee to take measures for bringing on shore as much of both as possible (not less than a tun of each) from the transports of Civita Vecchia. Remember to get all thou canst from Colasse.*

* Commissary at war, and superintendant of the port, &c. of Alexandria.

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Do not forget; wine, brandy, and rum; it is an age since we have been in the utmost need of them all. There is very little here, and that little is extremely bad, above all price, and not to be procured.

Another thing which thou art desired to do, is to embark the packages of shoes and shirts for the division, as well as the baggage of General Desaix. The men are absolutely without either, and we fear they will be given to others.

If thou art in want of money, take some of mine, and set it down.

Adieu; we expect thee; do the best thou canst; above all, do not forget that we shall have no wine nor brandy but what thou bringest with thee; remember too, that of the sixteen deal cases, fourteen belong to General Bonaparte. In the name of God, bring us our baggage and our brandy; the whole army is ill of a diarrhea, with drinking water. In the name of God, WINE, BRANDY, and RUM.* Don't forget the baggage of

* Anxiety cannot be expressed in stronger words than these before us; it marks the distresses to which the French were reduced, and the urgent want of those indispensable articles of health and convenience which were left at Alexandria, in the most striking manner.

It is proper in this place, to inform such of our readers as may not be well acquainted with the topical history of Egypt, that Alexandria, where all the baggage and all the stores were left when the army marched to Cairo, is situated in the Desert, properly speaking, and has no communication whatever with Egypt (at least in its present circumstances) but by that branch of the Nile which throws itself into the sea below Rosetta.

It follows, therefore, that while the coast is in our possession (which it now completely is, by the glorious victory of the first of August), nothing of consequence can pass; and the correspon-

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General Beliard; leave nothing at Alexandria, at least

dence between the two parts of the French army (that of Alexandria and that of Cairo) is nearly as impracticable (at least as to any purpose of relief) as if the Atlantic rolled between them.

An army, indeed, might cross the Deserts, as Bonaparte's did, but the French have not now any armies to spare; and if they had, it is not sure that they would attempt it, after the experience they have had of its difficulties and dangers. And even if they should, nothing would be gained by it, for they could carry nothing with them; no, not a day's provisions, and if they ever reached Cairo, it would be only to perish under the same wants as those who preceded them.

One word more—it appears from some of these letters, that the transports and troops at Alexandria were in the greatest need of water and provisions; the latter, Bonaparte was sending them from Cairo, in sixty schermes, or country boats, which, when the latest of these dispatches were made up, had not reached Rosetta; and most certainly will never get to Alexandria.

What the wants of the grand army at Cairo are, our readers have seen: we will take upon us confidently to predict, that they will never be supplied; for if the little skiff that was creeping along shore to Alexandria with these letters, could not escape the vigilance of our indefatigable tars, how can larger vessels hope to do it? Add to this, that the mouth of the Nile is exceedingly difficult to be passed, on account of the surf that always prevails upon the bar, and asks a thousand precautions which can only be taken in a time of full security.

What the effect of this want of communication may be at Alexandria, we know not; at Cairo it must be dreadful. "In the name of God," says Savary, "bring us our brandy and our rum, "for the whole army is ill of a diarrhea." Observe, this is the army which Bonaparte and Berthier represent, in their official dispatches, as in perfect health! We want no better test of their veracity!

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as little as possible: as for Mireur,* thou knowst that he is killed.

Adieu.

SAVARY.

We are going to send you sixty of the country barks; there is a possibility of your finding some tartanes at Alexandria, in that case I would have you endeavour to come in one of them. Bring my servant with you, sick or well; I will cure him here.

† "Mireur," says Bonaparte, in his official letter to the Directory, dated July 24th, "and several other aid-du-camps, "and officers of the staff, have been killed by these wretches" (the Arabs, who, if killing makes wretches, are certainly not greater wretches than the French; some people may think not so great); "the Republic has sustained a loss in Mireur; he was "the bravest General I ever knew;" and then follows some impious rant about destiny, &c. We gather from the correspondence, that the army are all turned decided fatalists. We do not wonder at it, for, if we must speak our minds, we will venture to pronounce, that prudence or forecast had very little to do with the expedition.

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No. XIII.

Au Quartier général du Grand Caire, le 9 Thermidor, an 6.

RAMPON, *Général de Brigade, commandant les* 18^me^ *et* 32^me^ ½ *Brigades de Bataille.*

JE vous avois promis, cher frère, dans ma dernière, de vous écrire de la plus grande Ville du monde. Je m'empresse à vous prouver combien j'aime à vous tenir parole.

Il ne m'est pas possible de vous faire des détails sur nos affaires, ni sur les privations que nous avons éprouvées dans notre marche ; le départ du vaisseau ne nous donne pas le tems ; mais le rapport du Général en Chef que vous verrez sûrement sur les papiers, vous mettra au fait de tout. Milhot et l'aîné Rampon se sont distingués dans la bataille des Piramides, Milhot a été nommé Lieutenant sur le champ de bataille, et Rampon Sous-Lieutenant au 7^me^ régiment d'hussards ; il me reste encore le cadet que j'espère de placer dans la première affaire ; d'ailleurs je suis assez content d'eux.

Adieu, cher frère, je désire que votre santé soit bonne, ainsi que celle de ma sœur, quant à la mienne elle est assez bonne ; mais je suis très-fatigué, et les chaleurs que nous éprouvons dans ce pays m'ôtent la moitié de mes forces. Enfin, il nous faut de la patience, du courage, et avec cela nous parviendrons peut-être à revoir un jour notre chere patrie.

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Adieu, je vous embrasse bien tendrement, mille et mille choses à ma sœur et à toute notre famille, et à nos amis, et amies. Donnez, je vous prie, de mes nouvelles à ma sœur Trappier, je n'ai pas le temps d'y écrire.

RAMPON.

Souillier, Milhot, et nos deux neveux me chargent de vous dire mille choses.

TRANSLATION.

Head Quarters, Grand Cairo, July.

RAMPON, *General of Brigade, commanding the* 18*th and* 32*d Demi-Brigades of Battle.*

Dear Brother,

I PROMISED in my last to write to you from the largest* city in the world; and I hasten to prove to you how desirous I am of keeping my word.

It is impossible for me to enter into any details on our present situation, or on the privations we underwent in our march; the immediate departure of the

* This is much for a Frenchman to say, but so he was told at Paris, and so he will continue to repeat. Cairo is far enough from being the largest city in the world, or even in Europe: London itself is twice as large.

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vessel will not allow it—but the dispatches of the Commander in Chief, which you will be sure to see in the papers, will fully inform you of every thing that has passed. *Milhot*, and the eldest *Rampon* distinguished themselves in the battle of the Pyramids. *Milhot* was made Lieutenant on the field, and *Rampon* second Lieutenant, of the 7th regiment of hussars. I have now only the youngest on my hands; and in the next action that occurs, I doubt not but that I shall find an opportunity of providing for him—to tell you the truth, I am extremely well pleased with them all.

Adieu, my dear brother; may you as well as my sister, continue to enjoy your health: with respect to my own, it is not yet to be complained of; but I am fatigued to death, and the heats of this country take away all my strength. In a word, we must have patience, and courage; with these, we shall one day or other, perhaps, have the happiness of returning to our dear country.

Adieu, I embrace you with the utmost affection—a thousand and a thousand kind things to my sister, and to all our family; to all our friends, male and female, and to my sister *Trappier*, to whom I have not time to write.

RAMPON.

Souillier, *Milhot*, and our two nephews, beg me to say every thing kind to you.

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No. XIV.

Au Quartier général du Gisé, le 6 Thermidor.

Au Citoyen LOUIS BONAPARTE, *Aide de Camp du Général en Chef, à Alexandrie.*

LE Général en Chef me charge, mon cher Louis, de t'annoncer la victoire qu'il a remportée le 3 de ce mois sur les Mamelouks. Elle a été complette; elle fut donnée à Embabé vis-à-vis Boulac. On estime la perte des ennemis, tant tués que blessées, à deux mille hommes; 40 pièces de canon, et beaucoup de chevaux. Notre perte a été médiocre. Les Beys ont fui dans la Haute Egypte. Le Général va ce soir au Caire.

Il me charge aussi de te dire de partir d'Alexandrie avec tous ses effets, ses voitures et chevaux de Malte, sa voiture de Civita Vecchia, pour Rosette, où tu trouveras des *gemmes* du païs, un bataillon de la 89me, et l'Adjudant-Général Almeyras, avec lesquels tu remonteras le Nil et viendras au Caire. De tous ses effets tu ne laisseras à Alexandrie que sa belle voiture de voyage.

N'oublies pas, mon ami, tous les effets que nous avons laissés à Alexandrie: nous en avons tous bien besoin. N'oublies pas non plus tous les vins, les livres, et les deux caisses de papiers, sur lesquelles est le nom du Général, et celui de Collot.

Je t'embrasse.

BOURSIENNE.

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TRANSLATION.

Head Quarters, Gizeh, July 27.

To Citizen LOUIS BONAPARTE, *Aid de Camp to the Commander in Chief, at Alexandria.*

THE Commander in Chief charges me, my dear Louis, to announce to thee the victory which he gained on the 24th of this month, over the Mameloucs. It was complete. It took place at Embabet, nearly opposite Boulac. We reckon the loss of the enemy in killed and wounded at about 2000 men; 40 pieces of cannon, and a number of horses. Our loss was moderate. The Beys are fled to Upper Egypt. The General marches this evening to Cairo.

He charges me also to bid thee set out immediately with all his baggage, (his carriages, and his horses from Malta, and his carriage from Civita Vecchia) for Rosetta, where thou wilt find some boats of the country, a battalion of the 89th, and the Adjutant-General Almeyras, with whom thou wilt ascend the Nile, and join us at Cairo. Leave nothing of all thy brother's baggage at Alexandria, but his handsome travelling carriage.

Do not forget, my friend, the baggage which we left at Alexandria: we are all in the greatest want of it imaginable; nor yet the wine, the books, nor the two packages of paper, one marked with the General's name, and the other with Collot's. I embrace thee.

BOURSIENNE.

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No. XV.

Au Quartier général du Caire, le 9 Thermidor.

Je m'empresse, ma très-chère mère, à vous faire part de l'arrivée de l'armée Française, à laquelle j'ai l'honneur de servir, à Alexandrie en Egypte: pendant notre traversée nous nous sommes emparés de l'isle, port et ville de Malte, qui est à 1100 lieues de Toulon; maintenant nous sommes au Grand Caire, ville capitale d'Egypte, distance de mille lieues de France.

J'ai beaucoup souffert pendant deux mois que nous avons restés en mer; tous les jours je ne cessois de vomir jusqu'au sang; lors que nous avons mis pied à terre sous les murs de la ville d'Alexandrie, j'ai été guéri de la maladie de mer, mais mes peines n'ont pas été terminées.

Nous avons perdu 300 hommes en escaladant les remparts pour nous rendre maître de la ville. Après quatre jours de repos, nous nous sommes mis à la poursuite des troupes Arabes, qui s'étoient retirées et campées dans le Désert: mais la première nuit de marche me fut bien funeste. J'étais à l'avant garde; nous tombames sur un corps de cavalerie ennemi, et la vivacité de mon cheval que vous avez connu, a causé tout mon malheur; il sortoit comme un lyon sur les chevaux et cavaliers ennemis, mais malheureusement en se cabrant il tomba à la renverse, et moi pour éviter d'être écrasé, je me jettai par côté. Comme c'était la nuit, je n'eu pas le tems

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de le saisir ; il se releva et partit comme l'éclair avec la cavalerie ennemie, qui abandonna le champ de bataille.

J'avais mis ce que j'avais de plus mauvais sur le corps, pour conserver ce qui était neuf dans mon porte-manteau, de sorte que je perdis mon cheval, tout harnaché, mes pistolets, mon manteau, porte-manteau, tous mes effets qui étaient dedans, ainsi que vingt-quatre Louis en argent que j'avais reçus à Marseille pour mes appointemens arriérés, et le plus essentiel encore est mon porte-feuille, qui contenoit tous mes papiers.

Je me trouvai tout-à-coup depouillé de tout, et obligé de marcher nuds pieds pendant 19 jours, sur le sable brûlant et les graviers dans le Désert, car le lendemain de cette malheureuse affaire, je perdis les semelles des vieilles bottes que j'avois aux jambes ; mon habit et ma vieille culotte furent bientôt déchirés en mille morceaux ; ne trouvant pas un peu de pain pour s'alimenter, n'y une goutte d'eau pour s'humecter la bouche ; pour toute consolation je maudissais plus de cent fois le jour, le métier de la guerre.

Enfin, le 4 de ce mois nous arrivames aux portes du Caire, là où toute l'arme ennemie était retranchée, et nous attendait de pied ferme ; mais avec notre impétuosité ordinaire, nous fumes l'attaquer dans ses retranchemens ; au bout de trois quarts d'heure, l'ennemi eut trois mille morts sur le champ de bataille ; le restant ne pouvant se sauver, se jetta dans le Nil, qui est une rivière aussi forte que le Rhône, par conséquent il furent tous noyés ou fusillés sur l'eau. D'après une pareille victoire nous entrames, tambour battant, dans la ville du Caire, et par conséquent maîtres de toute l'Egypte.

Je ne sais, ma très-chère mère dans quel tems j'aurais

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le plaisir de vous voir, je me repens bien d'être venu, mais il n'est plus tems: enfin, je me résigne à la volonté Suprême, et malgré les mers qui nous séparent, votre mémoire sera toujours gravée dans mon cœur, et aussitôt que les circonstances le permettront, je franchirai tous les obstacles pour rentrer dans ma patrie.

Adieu, conservez vous, et mille choses à mes parents.

Votre fils,

GUILLOT.

TRANSLATION.

Head Quarters, Cairo, July 27.

Dear Mother,

I TAKE the earliest opportunity of acquainting you with the arrival of the French army, in which I have the honour to serve, at Alexandria in Egypt. On our passage we took possession of the island, port, and city of Malta, which is 1100 leagues from Toulon; and how we are at Grand Cairo, the capital city of Egypt, which is 1000 leagues from France.*

* The French are poor geographers in general, but the ridiculous miscalculation above, is probably a mistake; it is, however, correctly translated. We have several other letters from this unhappy youth, from which it appears that he is a Captain

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I suffered a vast deal during the two months that our voyage lasted. During the whole time, I was sea-sick, without intermission, and brought up blood all day long. When we set foot upon land, however, under the walls of Alexandria, I was cured of my sea-sickness, but my sufferings were by no means at an end.

We lost 300 men in scaling the ramparts of the city. After a halt of four days, we set out in pursuit of the Arabs, who had retreated and encamped in the Desert: but the first night of our march was a very terrible one for me. I was with the advanced guard: we came suddenly upon a corps of the enemy's cavalry; and my horse, which you know was always a very hot one, was the unfortunate cause of all my trouble. He sprung forward like a lion, upon the horses and horsemen of the enemy; but unluckily, in rearing, he fell quite backwards, and to avoid being crushed to death, I was obliged to fling myself on one side of him. As it was night, I had not time to seize him again: he got up, and set off like lightning after the enemy's cavalry, which was quitting the field.

I had put on all my old clothes, for the sake of preserving my new ones, which were packed up in my portmanteau; so that I lost my horse completely bridled and saddled, my pistols, my cloak, my portmanteau, every thing that was in it, my clothes, twenty-four louis d'ors which I received at Marseilles to fit me out; and, what is still worse, my port-folio, which contained all my papers.

in the 25th half-Brigade. As he afterwards relates that the enemy's cavalry were all killed or taken, we hope we may congratulate him on the recovery of his charger, and his new clothes.

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Thus I found myself in an instant stript of every thing, and obliged to march barefoot for nineteen days on the burning sand and gravel of the Desert; for the very day after this unhappy affair, I lost the soles of the old boots which I happened to have on my legs: my coat and my old breeches were very soon torn to a thousand tatters:—not having a bit of bread to eat, nor a drop of water to moisten my mouth, all the comfort I had was in cursing and d—mning the trade of war, more than a hundred times a day

At last, on the 22d of this month, we arrived at the gates of Cairo, where all the enemy's army was intrenched, and waiting for us with great boldness; but with our usual impetuosity we marched to attack them in their intrenchments; in about three-quarters of an hour, they had 3000 killed outright; the rest not being able to save themselves, plunged into the Nile, which is a river as large as the Rhone—consequently they were all drowned, or shot under water. After *such* a victory, we entered, with drums beating, into the city of Cairo; consequently masters of all Egypt.

I do not know, my dear mother, when I shall have the pleasure of seeing you. I repent much and much of ever coming here; but it is now too late: in a word, I resign myself to the Supreme Will. In spite of the seas which separate us, your memory will be always graven on my heart, and the moment circumstances permit, I will break through all obstacles to return to my country.

Adieu—take care of yourself—a thousand things to my relations.

Your son,

GUILLOT.

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No. XVI.

Armée d'Angleterre.

Au Grand Caire, le 9 Thermidor.

R. DESGENETTES *à la Citoyenne* DESGENETTES, *au Val-de-Grace, Rue St. Jacques, à Paris.*

JE t'écris enfin, ma chere épouse, du Caire, qui sera, je crois, le terme de mon voyage.

Déjà je t'ai écrit deux fois en mer, une fois de Malte, et un autre d'Alexandrie. Les occasions sont rares, et peu sûres. Pour moi, je n'ai point reçu de tes lettres: rien ne m'a appris ton arrivée à Paris.

Un jour je te raconterai tous mes voyages, les combats que j'ai vus, et les dangers sans nombre que j'ai partagés.

Mon ami, l'Ordonnateur en Chef, Sucy, a été gravement blessé d'un coup de feu, ainsi que le jeune Lannes. Desnanotre qui m'étoit aussi recommandé par La Repede, a été fait prisonnier par les Arabes.

Les peuples de l'Egypte sont des sauvages féroces. Les Beys, leurs maîtres, des oppresseurs orgueilleux. Leur Mamelouks, c'est-à-dire, leur cavalerie d'élite, et caste privilegiée n'a opposé à l'armée qu'un courage irréfléchi. Tout cela est battu.

Il y a quelque chose que j'admire et que j'aime dans les Turcs; c'est leur prédestination qui mène à des résultats très-philosophiques, et qui s'arrange assez avec *mes circonstances*, ma *néanité*, et *mes destinées*.

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Il y a aussi des usages fort singuliers. On a jusques à quatre femmes légitimes, sans compter les maîtresses. Je ne sais tout cela qu'historiquement ; mais ce que je sais bien, c'est qu'on ne boit guères que de l'eau.

Voilà beaucoup de choses à raconter. Un peu de nos affaires.

On ne nous paye pas, ma chere femme, et je n'ai rien reçu depuis Toulon. Encore ne suis-je pas des plus malheureux ; car presque tout le monde a été pillé ou forcé de jetter à l'eau ses bagages, et j'ai tout conservé.

En partant de Toulon, je t'ai envoyé 700 livres, un peu plus ou un peu moins. Courtal a été chargé de l'envoi qui l'eût je crois fait par les messageries. N'oublies pas de m'en écrire, et dans plus d'une lettre, car elles se perdent, sont prises, &c.

La lettre du Citoyen Girandi pour le Caire m'a été utile ; je suis logé chez le medecin en question, et je l'ai placé dans l'armée.

Le Général en Chef m'a constamment traité avec bonté, et j'espère toujours, ma chere Lolotte, t'embrasser au tems convenu entre nous.

Embrasse Julien, tes chers parens, et ceux que nous aimons.

R. D.

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TRANSLATION.

*Army of England.**

Grand Cairo, July 27th.

R. DESGENETTES† *to the female Citizen* DESGENETTES, *Val-de-Grace, Rue St. Jacques, Paris.*

I WRITE to thee, at last, my dear wife, from Cairo, which will be, I think, the boundary of my expedition.

I wrote to thee twice on our voyage; once from Malta, and again from Alexandria. Opportunities do not often occur, and when they do, they are very unsafe. Not a single letter of thine has yet reached me, nor have I yet heard of thy arrival at Paris.

I will give thee hereafter a faithful history of all my travels; the battles which I have seen, and the dangers without number which I have shared.

My friend Sucy, first Commissary, is dangerously wounded‡ by a musket shot, as is the young Lannes.

* Desgenettes seems at some former period to have miscalculated his literary wants. His epistle is written on a supernumerary sheet of paper, prepared for the "Army of Italy," which last words are very fairly printed at the head of it. These the good Doctor has carefully erased, and in their place, substituted "Army of England"—Such accuracy is above all praise!

† From an official document lying before us, Desgenettes appears to be first Physician to the army;—a situation for which the reader will conclude him to be specially qualified, before he has gone through his letter.

‡ His arm was fractured in passing up the Nile.

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Desnanotre, who was likewise recommended to me by La Repede, is taken prisoner by the Arabs.

The natives of Egypt are ferocious savages: the Beys their masters, haughty oppressors. Their Mameloucs, that is to say, their best cavalry, their privileged cast, opposed nothing to our army but a blind and inconsiderate courage: they were beaten, of course.

There is something in the Turks which I cannot help admiring, and even loving—it is their predestination, which leads to results of the most philosophical nature, and which accommodates itself surprisingly to my *circumstances*, my *nothingness*, and my *fates*.

They have also some very singular customs here. A man may have as many as four lawful wives, besides mistresses. This I have only from hearsay; but I can vouch from my own knowledge, that they drink scarce any thing but water.

Here is a great deal of news for one letter—now to our private affairs.

We are not paid at all, my dear wife; nor have I received a single sous since I left Toulon. With all this, I am far from being the most unfortunate; for almost every body here has either been pillaged, or compelled to fling his baggage into the river; and I have saved all mine.

At quitting Toulon I sent thee 700 livres, more or less. Courtal was charged to see them conveyed; which was done, I believe, by the government messengers. Do not forget to write to me about them, and in more than one letter, for they are lost, taken, &c.

Citizen Girandi's letter for Cairo was of service to me; I am lodged with the physician in question, and I have in return placed him in the army.

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The Commander in Chief has constantly treated me with kindness; and I still hope, my dear Lolotte, to be with thee at the period we fixed on.

Embrace, Julien, thy dear parents, and all our friends.

R. DESGENETTES.

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No. XVII.

Rosette, en Egypte, le 9 Thermidor, an 6.

J'ESPE'RE, bonne amie, que cette lettre te parviendra. Je l'envoie par une occasion particulière, et c'est peut-être la seule de toutes celles que je t'ai écrites depuis Malte, qui te sera remise. Pour moi, je n'ai pas eu le bonheur, depuis mon départ de Toulon, de recevoir des tiennes. Il est cependant arrivé depuis six jours, deux avisos, qui en ont apporté beaucoup.

Je présume que tes lettres auront été envoyées sur le brick pris par les Anglois, alors je ne dois pas espérer d'en recevoir sitôt; ce qui me désespère. Ma position est si cruelle, que je succomberai, si je suis privé de cette consolation. Tâche, ma bonne amie, de me tant écrire, que je reçoive au moins une ou deux fois de tes nouvelles. Tu dois bien penser que mes inquiétudes à ton sujet doivent être grandes: je ne sais quelles sont tes ressources. Je n'ai pu te faire passer que peu d'argent par le Capitaine Collot, et dans ce moment je ne trouve aucune occasion de t'en envoyer. Je suis éloigné du Citoyen Magallon de 35 lieues, et je prévois, qu'avant mon arrivée au Caire, je ne pourrai t'en faire passer.

Je crois que nous nous sommes tous bien trompés sur cette entreprise si belle et si vantée; je crois même, qu'en réussissant à soumettre l'Egypte, nous aurons bien de la peine à retirer de cette opération tout le fruit que l'on

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en attendoit. Nous trouvons partout beaucoup de résistance, et plus encore de trahison : il est impossible à un François de s'écarter seul de quelque portée de fusil de l'endroit habité sans courir le risque d'être assassiné, ou victime d'une passion affreuse très en vogue dans ce pays, surtout de la part des Mamelouks, et des Arabes Bédouins. Je connois plusieurs personnes qui dans la ville même d'Alexandrie, ont été enlevées à la nuit tombante, et ont subi ce sort affreux.

Rosette est beaucoup plus tranquille qu'Alexandrie, les habitants en sont plus doux, et nous avons moins de risques à courir ; cependant nous mettons la plus grande circonspection dans notre conduite particulière, et la plus grande police, et même de la sévérité dans l'administration générale.

Ce pays si vanté ne vaut pas sa réputation. L'endroit le plus sauvage et le plus agreste de la France, est mille fois plus beau ; rien au monde de si triste, de si misérable, de si mal-sain qu'Alexandrie (le port le plus commerçant de l'Egypte) ; des maisons de boue, sans autres fenêtres que quelque trous couvertes d'un treillage de bois grossier, point de toits aux maisons, des portes si petites, qu'il faut se briser pour entrer ; enfin, figure-toi une réunion de colombiers vilains et mal bâtis, et tu auras une idée juste d'Alexandrie.

Les rues sont toutes étroites, de travers, et point pavées, de sorte que l'on est continuellement incommodé de la poussière, et d'une chaleur excessive ; ou bien, s'il prend fantaisie aux habitants d'arroser le devant de leurs cabanes, on passe d'un mal dans un pire, la poussière se change en boue, il n'est plus possible alors de marcher. Tout y est fort cher et fort rare ; joins à cela, la difficulté de se faire entendre, et mille autres dés-

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agrémens que je ne puis te décrire, et tu jugeras de notre position.

Cependant il faut convenir, que depuis que je suis à Rosette, je me trouve moins mal. Le pays est un peu plus riant. Le Nil y procure un peu de verdure, et la vue des palmiers, quoique bien monotone, puisque c'est la seule espèce d'arbres qu'on y voit, recrée un peu les yeux ; mais rien n'est fait pour distraire l'imagination, et tu dois bien présumer, que dans un pays tel que celui-ci, avec la peine, les inquiétudes qu'on y éprouve, elle doit être dans une grande activité, et comme les objets sont tristes, les pensées y correspondent, et nous vivons dans un chagrin perpétuel ———

TRANSLATION.

Rosetta, in Egypt, July 27th.

I HOPE, child, that this letter will reach thee ; I send it by a particular opportunity, and it is, perhaps, the only one of all that I have written to thee since my departure from Malta which will come safe to hand. As for me, I have not once heard from thee since I left Toulon, notwithstanding two advice boats have arrived within the last six days, and brought a vast number of letters.

I presume that thy letters were put on board the corvette which was taken by the English ; in that case, I cannot hope to hear from thee for some time, an idea

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that distresses me almost beyond bearing. My situation is so grievous, that I shall sink under it if I am deprived of that consolation. Exert thyself, therefore, my love, and write to me so frequently, that I may at least stand a chance of hearing from thee once or twice. Thou must needs be assured that my anxiety on thy account is very great. I could send thee but a little money by Capt. Collot; at present I have not the power of transmitting a single sous. I am more than a hundred miles from Citizen Magallon,* and I foresee that I shall be able to send thee nothing before I get to Cairo.

I fear that we have all been terribly deceived with respect to this expedition, so fine, and so cried up! nay, I am even apprehensive, that if we succeed in conquering Egypt, we shall still find prodigious difficulties in drawing from it all those advantages which we so fondly promised ourselves. We experience every where a great deal of resistance, and a greater still of treachery. It is impossible for one of us to walk out alone a musket shot from any inhabited place, without running the risk of being assassinated, or of becoming the victim of a detestable passion, much in vogue in this country, especially among the Mameloucs, and Bedouin Arabs. I know several who were seiezd about nightfall in the very streets of Alexandria, and compelled to undergo this shocking outrage.

Rosetta is much more tranquil than Alexandria. Its inhabitants are more civilized, and we are consequently exposed to fewer dangers: notwithstanding this, however, we maintain the greatest circumspection in our

* Consul General at Alexandria. He was at this time with the army at Cairo.

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individual conduct, and the strictest police, nay even a degree of severity in our general administration.

This country, so much celebrated, is by no means worthy of the character it has obtained; the most savage and uncultivated spot in France is a thousand times more beautiful. Nothing on earth can be so gloomy, so wretched, and so unhealthy as Alexandria, the most commercial spot in Egypt! Houses of mud, with no other windows than a hole here and there, covered with a clumsy wooden lattice; no raised roofs, and doors which you must break your back to enter; briefly, figure to thyself a collection of dirty, ill built, pigeon-houses, and thou wilt have an adequate idea of Alexandria.

The streets are all narrow and crooked, and without pavement, so that one is continually incommoded by the dust, and excessive heat. When the inhabitants take it into their heads to water the streets before the doors of their hovels, the remedy is worse than the disease; the dust is instantly converted into mud, and the streets become altogether impassable. Every thing there is very scarce and very dear; add to all this, the difficulty of making ones-self understood, and the thousand other disagreeable circumstances which I have not the power to describe, and thou wilt be able to form a tolerable opinion of our situation.

I must, however, allow, that since I came here, I have been less wretched. The face of the country is a little more agreeable. The Nile produces a small quantity of verdure; and the sight of the palm-tree, (though extremely monotonous, from the circumstance of its being the only tree to be found here) in some trifling degree refreshes the eye; but nothing is calculated to en-

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gage or amuse the imagination, and thou may'st easily conceive, that in a country like this, and in a situation productive of so much pain and inquietude, that faculty must needs be extremely active; as the objects around us, therefore, are dark and gloomy, the thoughts necessarily take a tinge from them, and we live in a state of perpetual spleen and vexation ———

The remainder of this interesting letter has received so much injury as to be illegible. We regret it the less, as after the correct and spirited picture of the country which we have just seen, the writer probably returned to his own immediate concerns. We know not who he is; it only appears from a few words which we can make a shift to decipher towards the conclusion, that he was first clerk to Poussielgue, Comptroller of the expences of the army.

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No. XVIII.

Alep, le 9 Thermidor.

CHODERLOS, *Consul Général de la République Française à Alep et Dépendances, au Citoyen Ministre des Rélations extérieures.*

Citoyen Ministre,

C'EST le 27 Messidor que nous avons eu le premier avis de la prise de Malte et du débarquement de notre armée navale à Alexandrie. Cette nouvelle a été confirmée depuis par différentes lettres, soit de Chypre, soit des échelles de la côte, mais jusqu'à présent, je n'ai rien reçu d'officiel sur ce grand événement, de sorte que nous flottons entre les nombreuses versions contradictoires qui se débitent sur cette expédition, qui semble avoir causé une grande commotion tant en Chypre que sur toute la côte de Syrie. Sans chercher à pénétrer le secret du gouvernement, je m'étonne cependant qu'une fois la descente opérée, le Général, ou au moins le Consul d'Alexandrie, n'ait pas adressé une circulaire aux Consuls des païs environnans, pour les mettre à portée de *tranquilliser* les Turcs, qu'on doit bien supposer ne pas voir d'un œil indifférent une expédition aussi formidable.

La contenance paisible que j'ai montrée dans cette occasion, a beaucoup contribué à calmer la première effervescence qui s'étoit manifestée non seulement chez les Turcs, mais encore sur la grande majorité des Francs de cette échelle.

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" Quel que puisse être," leur ai-je dit à tous, " le " but de l'expédition, vous ne devez faire aucun doute " qu'elle ne soit du consentement de la Porte. Atten- " dons les nouvelles officielles de l'un et l'autre gou- " vernement, et jusques-là, reposons-nous avec con- " fiance sur la connoissance que nous avons tous de " l'ancienne et étroite amitié que règne depuis si long- " tems entre les deux puissances."

J'ai fait valoir ensuite, l'avantage qui résultoit pour l'empire Ottoman, de la prise de Malte par les François, et en effet, cette nouvelle a beaucoup servi à contrebalancer l'impression fâcheuse de nous savoir si voisins avec des forces si rédoutables.

Dans ce moment Alep est tout-à-fait calmé : il n'y auroit à craindre que l'effet que pourroit produire quelqu'une des versions exagérées que la frayeur dicte, et que la frayeur peut adopter.

Le Pacha, tous les grands de la ville sont tranquilles ; s'il y avoit quelque explosion à redouter, ce ne pourroit être que de la part des Chérifs que le fanatisme pourroit porter à des excès, et dans cette supposition, je ne serois pas étonné que les Jannissaires qui nous aiment, ne prissent notre défense.

J'use d'une voie suspecte, Citoyen Ministre, pour vous faire parvenir ce bulletin écrit à la hâte, attendû que la seule occasion qui se présente, est celle d'un courier, du Ministre ————, et qu'il faut toutes les précautions possibles, et même toutes les ruses imaginables pour sauver les apparences qui pourroient mettre obstacle au départ de ma lettre.

Salut et respect.

J. CHODERLOS.

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Par les raisons ci-dessus, le Citoyen Beauchamp ne peut pas vous écrire. Le paquet se trouveroit trop volumineux pour ne pas éveiller le soupçon. Il me charge de vous donner avis, qu'il part après demain pour *Latakia*, d'où il avisera aux moyens d'aller en avant.

TRANSLATION.

Aleppo, July 27.

CHODERLOS,* *Consul General of the French Republic at Aleppo and its Dependencies, to the Citizen Minister for Foreign Affairs.*

Citizen Minister,

IT was not till the 15th instant, that we first heard of the capture of Malta, and of the disembarkation of our

* This is the brother of the famous, or rather infamous La Clos, known in this country as the author of *Les Liaisons Dangéreuses*, and, in France, as one of the most active promoters of the Revolution. He was at once the agent, and the instigator, of that profligate idiot, *Egalité*; he was also a principal manager of the Jacobin Club, of which he was President in 1790.

His talents for intrigue made him redoubtable to Robespierre, by whom he was proscribed: he contrived, however, to escape, and, in 1795, was selected by the government (to whom his abilities and his want of principle were well known) as a fit instrument for promoting their iniquitous designs in Syria.

To return to Choderlos. He was sent to Aleppo some time after his brother (who was settled at Latakia) and on the same

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troops at Alexandria. This news has since been confirmed by various letters from Cyprus, and from the ports along the coast: to the present moment, however, I have received nothing official on these important events; so that we are kept suspended, as it were, between the numerous contradictory stories which are propagated concerning this expedition; which appears to have excited a considerable degree of alarm, not only at Cyprus, but along the whole coast of Syria.

Without pretending to pry into the secrets of government, I cannot help saying I am astonished that, when the descent was once effected, the General, or at least the Consul at Alexandria, did not address a circular letter to the consuls of the neighbouring countries, to put them in a way of quieting the apprehensions of the Turks, who (as may easily be supposed) do not see so formidable an expedition without some degree of alarm.

The pacific language which I have continued to hold on this occasion has contributed greatly to calm the effervescence which was beginning to manifest itself, not only among the Turks, but even among a great majority of the French who are settled here.

iniquitous errand. His letter shews that he was equally well qualified for the purpose. Much mischief would inevitably have followed, had not the presumption and folly of their rapacious masters precipitated measures, and plunged them in the abyss of misery which they were wantonly preparing for others.

They are both ere this, we trust, in the Castle of the Seven Towers: much too good a place of imprisonment for men who, in strict justice, should long since have perished in the dungeons of Robespierre.

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" Whatever," said I to them all, " may be the pur-
" port of this expedition, you ought to entertain no
" doubt but that it is undertaken with the full con-
" sent of the Porte. Let us wait for authentic intelli-
" gence from our respective governments—and till then,
" let us confidently repose on the knowledge we all
" have of the strict connection which has now subsisted
" so long between the two powers."—(*Precious villain!*)

I then placed in the fairest point of view, the various advantages which would accrue to the Ottoman empire from our possession of Malta—and, to say the truth, this circumstance had a considerable effect in counterbalancing the disagreeable sensation, which the knowledge of having so formidable a force in the neighbourhood had already produced.

At this moment Aleppo is effectually quieted. I can see nothing to apprehend but a sudden convulsion, produced by some of those absurd and exaggerated accounts which terror frequently dictates, and which terror alone is capable of adopting.

The Pacha, and all the Grandees of the city are tranquil. If there be any explosion to dread, it is on the part of the Cheriffs, whom fanaticism may drive to violent measures—and, in that case, I should not be astonished if the Janizaries, who are fond of us, were to undertake our defence.

I take advantage, Citizen Minister, of a mode of conveyance, not altogether without suspicion, to transmit you this letter, which I have scribbled in great haste—because the only opportunity that offers is that of the courier of the ***** Consul, and because it is necessary to use every precaution, and even every arti-

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fice imaginable to save appearances, and prevent any obstacles being raised to its departure.

Health and respect.

J. CHODERLOS.

The reasons I have just given, prevent Citizen Beauchamp from writing to you. The packet would be too voluminous not to excite suspicion. He charges me to inform you, that he intends setting out the day after to-morrow for Latakia, where he will take measures for prosecuting his journey.

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No. XIX.

Au Grand Caire, le 10 *Thermidor, an* 6.

Le Contre Amiral PERRE'E, *commandant la Flotille du Nil, à son Ami* LE JOILLE, *Chef de Division, commandant le Vaisseau le* Généreux.

MON cher camarade, je profite de l'occasion de la Cisalpine pour te donner de mes nouvelles, comme je te l'ai marqué par ma derniere.

Je suis arrivé en cette ville le lendemain de notre armée, après avoir éprouvé toutes les privations possibles; nous avons été jusqu'à six jours sans avoir autre chose à manger que des pastiques, et pour dessert du pastique. La fusillade roulait toute la journée de la part du paysan, qui étoit commandé par des Arabes ou des Bédouins.

Je t'assûre que si ces hommes savoient tirer, nous ne serions pas revenus un seul. A présent ils sont plus raisonnables depuis que le Caire est à nous. Je regarde en ce moment le Nil comme certain, ce qui nous permettra la communication avec vous.

Tu apprendras avec plaisir que j'ai été promû au grade de Contre Amiral sur le champ de bataille, après l'affaire du 25. Assurément si j'avois été secondé par une autre canonnière il n'auroit plus été question de leur flotille, quoiqu'ils en avoient 7, et pour lors je n'avois que 6 bâtiments, dont trois ont été abandonnés et pris par les ennemis, qui ont eu l'audace de s'en emparer à portée de pistolet de moi.

Pour lors j'ai fait diriger toutes mes forces dessus,

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fait couler à fond la canonnière de l'Amiral, et je les ai forcés à lâcher mes canonnières que j'ai réintegrées de-suite. J'avois encore deux batteries de 12 canons de campagne dirigées sur moi à très-petite portée. Les troupes étoient très-éloignées et ne pouvoient me donner aucun secours. Le combat a commencé à 9 heures moins un quart, et a fini à une heure et demie que notre armée les a mis en déroute.

Je t'assure que nous avons été trompés beaucoup sur la navigation du Nil. Il ne peut y monter aucun bâtiment tirant plus de cinq pieds à l'époqued où j'ai monté ; tant qu'à la fertilité du pays je crois que l'on a beaucoup à décompter. La férocité des habitans est pire que les sauvages ; majeure partie habillés en paille. Enfin le pays n'est pas de mon goût. Cependant après la peine, le plaisir ; en ce moment je suis assez bien, tant pour les nourritures que pour les plaisirs. Les Beys nous ont laissé quelque jolies Arméniennes et Georgiennes, que nous nous sommes emparés au profit de la nation. Je te prie, mon bon ami, de m'envoyer une barique de vin : tu obligeras

Ton ami,

EM. PERRE'E.

Assure de mon amitié à tous mes amis.

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TRANSLATION.

Grand Cairo, July 28th.

Rear Admiral PERRE'E, *commanding the Flotilla of the Nile, to his Friend,* LE JOILLE,* *Chief of Division, and Captain of the Généreux.*

I TAKE the opportunity of the sailing of the Cisalpine, my dear comrade, to give thee some account of myself, as I promised to do in my last.

* Le Joille escaped from the hands of Lord Nelson, and had the good fortune, in his flight to Corfou, to fall in, and after an engagement of six hours and a half, to capture the Leander, a vessel at no time of half his force, and then enfeebled by her recent engagement, and with scarce two thirds of her complement.

This is all well known:—what is not so notorious, though it well deserves to be so, is the brutal behaviour of Joille to the brave men, whose invincible courage (for they did not strike till the Leander was absolutely ungovernable) would have entitled them to the respect of a generous enemy. Would it be believed, that the wounds of the gallant commander *were not suffered to be dressed for several days*, and that the surgeon of the ship had his instruments taken from him while he was employed in performing an operation upon one of our unfortunate countrymen!!! Yet all this, and more than all this, is perfectly true.

We are at a loss to know on what principle of sound policy, or in conformity to what chapter in the code of candour, these and other traits of wanton barbarity, of ferocious rapacity, on the part of the French, are suppressed in our public statements. We have heard of one council abroad, in which it was seriously proposed to soften or conceal the insults of France, lest that country should be irritated! and we have seen one paper at home, which

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I arrived here the day after our army, after experiencing every degree of misery. We were six days without any thing to eat but water-melons—water-melons for our dinner, and water-melons for our desert! The peasantry of the country, commanded by Arabs or Bedouins, kept up a firing all day long about our ears. I can assure thee, that if these people knew how to level a musket, not a man of us would return alive. They have been a little more complaisant since the capture of Cairo. I now consider the Nile as open; our communications will, therefore, be more regular in future.

Thou wilt hear with pleasure that I was promoted to the rank of Rear Admiral on the field of battle, immediately after the affair of the 13th. I am certain that

advised the same conduct.—Whether this was done through design or ignorance is not worth inquiry. We are surely too powerful to be insulted by the French, and we have too many means of retaliation in our hands to dread their irritation.

Let it also be considered, that the publicity for which we contend, is due to the brave men who are fighting our battles—it is also due to the civilized world, of whom the French are the terror and the pest—since there cannot be a more effectual method of counteracting a nation, which derives much of its influence, and more of its power, from the base and hypocritical cant of superior justice and humanity, than unfolding every act of unnecessary cruelty, which their innate thirst of plunder, and of blood, induces them to perpetrate.

We have gone out of our way to make these remarks; but we hope the importance of them will excuse us.

To return to Joille.—We are happy to add, that he had not the satisfaction of possessing himself of the colours which Lord Nelson had put on board the Leander. They were sunk previous to the surrender of the vessel, together with the dispatches, and letters of every kind.

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if I had been supported by one gun-boat more, we should have seen the last of their flotilla, though they had seven and I had but six, three of which were deserted by the crews, and in the possession of the enemy, who had the audacity to seize them within pistol-shot of my boat; it was then that I exerted myself to the utmost, sunk the flag-vessel, and compelled them to abandon my boats; which I afterwards put into a state of service. I had besides, two batteries of six field-pieces each opened upon me, at a very trifling distance; and the army was too remote to lend me any succour.* The engagement began at a quarter before nine in the morning, and finished about half after one, when they fled on all sides.

I can assure thee that we have been miserably deceived respecting the navigation of the Nile. No vessel that draws more than five feet can ascend it at the period that I did; with respect to the fertility of the country too, great deductions must be made, or I am mightily mistaken.† The ferocity of the inhabitants

* This is not the fact: it was the appearance of the army (though it might not be actually engaged) that saved him from absolute destruction.

† It is curious to mark the progress of conviction amongst the French. Alexandria is universally allowed to be detestable,—there are no doubts expressed of that—"Oh! but then it will be "delightful when we get to Rosetta!" "No," say those who are stationed there, "Rosetta is not delightful at all, it is only a "little less wretched than Alexandria." "True! but then the "Delta! that is surely rich and beautiful; and then there is "Cairo, the wealthiest, the largest, and the most magnificent city "in the world!" "As for the Delta," says Perrée, "I have just "passed through it, and I can assure you, that it is any thing but "rich and beautiful." "And as for Cairo," exclaim a thousand

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exceeds that of savages; most of them appear to be covered with reeds or straw. In a word, the country is not at all to my taste; however, after pain, pleasure, as the proverb says. At present I am tolerably well situated, both with respect to my table and my other amusements. The Beys have left us some pretty Armenian and Georgian wenches, whom we have confiscated to the profit of the nation. Do, prithee, my dear friend, send me a cask of wine; thou wilt confer an obligation on thy friend

EM. PERRE'E.

Assure all my friends of my best regards.

voices in concert, "it is the vilest and most miserable dog-hole "on the face of the earth!" Thus delusion after delusion passes away, and the French, who are as sanguine as they are credulous, are finally resigned to disappointment and despair.

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No. XX.

Au Quartier général du Grand Caire, le 10 *Thermidor.*

LE TURCQ *Aide-de-Camp du Général* B. *Chef de l'Etat-Major, Général de l'Armée, au Citoyen* LE TURCQ *son Père.*

DEPUIS votre lettre datée du 23 Floréal dernier, je n'ai reçu aucune de vos nouvelles, cher père; vous devez sentir combien cela doit m'inquiéter. Je n'ai rien négligé pour profiter de tous les couriers que nous avons expédiés pour Paris, de Toulon, de Malte, et d'Alexandrie, ainsi que celui-ci que nous expédions du Caire.

Je ne vous peindrai pas la position dans laquelle nous nous trouvons tous dans ce pays; je me bornerai seulement à vous dire, que nous avons tous été trompés dans notre attente sur le pays de l'Egypte; mais heureusement pour moi, j'ai le bonheur de jouir d'une assez bonne santé, c'est-à-dire jusqu'à ce jour, un des mieux portants de l'armée. Je désire bien ardemment être de retour près de vous, pour vous faire un tableau fidèle du pays, d'après lequel vous jugerez aisément que nous devons beaucoup nous y ennuyer sous bien des rapports.

Je vous joins ici, cher père, une relation de ce qui nous est arrivé dans notre marche d'Alexandrie au Caire, et des différens combats que nous avons eus pendant cette marche, avec les Mamelouks et les Bédouins. Il vous sera facile de juger de notre position dans ce désert, qui eût été la défaite de l'armée sans le secours du Nil, branche

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d'un fleuve qui se jette dans le Delta. Je termine, espérant incessamment jouir du bonheur de vous raconter ces faits extraordinaires moi-même dans vos foyers.

Je ne dissimulerai pas que c'est un grand avantage pour moi, déjà ancien militaire, d'avoir fait un voyage aussi important et aussi instructif, mais sachant ce qu'est le pays et les privations en tout genre qu'on y endure, je ne sais trop, si ce voyage étoit à recommencer, si je l'entreprendrois ; mais maintenant que j'ai supporté la majeure partie des maux qui m'y attendoient je suis bien aise de le faire, et veux le suivre jusqu'à la fin.

Nous sommes au Caire depuis quelques jours ; il seroit possible que nous y restassions encore une quinzaine, après quoi il est vraisemblable que nous dirigerons nos pas en Syrie, vers la Haute Egypte ; déjà une de nos divisions est partie pour Damiette.

Je n'ai pas besoin de vous prier de communiquer cette lettre et ma rélation à nos parents et amis communs, particulièrement au Citoyen et à la Citoyenne Berthe, mon frère marchand, et mon oncle Le Turcq, enfin tous mes parents ; dites-leur que je les embrasse tous du plus profond de mon cœur, en attendant le plaisir de les voir si je le peux sous six mois.

Le Général Berthier écrit par le même courier à son père, ainsi que l'Huillier ; il est nommé aujourd'hui Sous-Lieutenant au 14 régiment de dragons.

Donnez-moi souvent de vos nouvelles et de toute ma famille ; n'oubliez pas le dragon. J'espère que mon prompt retour l'indemnisera de la perte qu'il peut faire par l'absence de ce long voyage que je suis forcé de continuer ; mais dites-lui qu'il ne perd rien pour attendre, que le Général Berthier m'a tout promis pour lui, et sûrement il est homme à tenir sa parole.

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Je vous embrasse mille fois tous, et je suis pour la vie,

Votre fils,

LE TURCQ.

Dites-moi, je vous prie, si vous avez reçu des nouvelles de César Berthe, qui se trouve ou à Milan, ou à Paris.

TRANSLATION.

Head Quarters, Grand Cairo, July 28.

LE TURCQ *Aid-de-Camp to General* BERTHIER, *Chief of the Etat-Major, and General of the Army, to Citizen Le Turcq, his father.*

Dear Father,

SINCE your letter of the 12th of May last, I have not received a single line from you: judge how wretched this has made me. I have omitted no opportunity of writing to you by the different couriers which have been dispatched to Paris, from Toulon, Malta, and Alexandria; and I now send to you by this, which is just setting out from Cairo.

I shall say nothing to you of the situation in which we find ourselves in this country, but content myself with observing once for all, that we have been miser-

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ably deceived in our expectations respecting Egypt. Happily for me, I have the good fortune to enjoy a tolerable state of health,—that is to say, I have been, down to the present hour, one of the healthiest in the whole army. I long most ardently to return to you, to lay before you a faithful picture of the country; from which you will easily be enabled to comprehend how many reasons we have to be disgusted with it.

I inclose, my dear father, a narrative* of what befel us in our march from Alexandria to Cairo, and of the different combats we had to sustain with the Mameloucs and the Bedouins. You will form a judgment without difficulty of our situation in the Desert. The whole army would have been destroyed, but for the assistance we derived from the Nile, a branch of a river which throws itself into the Delta! I conclude with repeating my hopes that I shall speedily enjoy the happiness of recounting these extraordinary events to you in person, by our own fire-side.

I will not pretend to deny but that it is a great advantage for me, already an old soldier, to be engaged in so important, and so instructive an expedition: but, knowing what the country really is, and the privations and sufferings to which we are exposed, I am not too sure, that if it were to begin again, I should venture to undertake it. Now, however, that I have overcome the major part of the evil which awaited me, I am not ill

* This narrative we have suppressed. It is in fact a tedious and ill-written detail of the same operations which are related with infinitely more ability by Boyer (No. XXII.); from whom Le Turcq differs only, in his enumeration of the hardships and losses of the army; which he states to be somewhat greater than Boyer does.

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pleased with what I have done; and have made up my mind to persevere to the end.*

We have been at Cairo some days. It is possible that we may stay here a fortnight longer, after which I think it probable that we shall march to Syria towards Upper Egypt. † One division is already gone to Damietta.

I have no occasion to request you to communicate my letter, and narrative, to our kinsmen and common friends, particularly to Citizen Berthe and his wife, to my brother the merchant, to my uncle Le Turcq, and in a word, to all my relations. Tell them that I embrace them with my whole heart, and flatter myself that I shall have the pleasure of seeing them within six months.

General Berthier writes by this courier to his father, so does l'Huillier, who is this day promoted to a lieutenancy in the 14th regiment of dragoons.

Let me hear from you and all the family often. Do

* It is impossible to read this paragraph, in which Le Turcq states his discontent so forcibly, in descanting on his happiness; without being immediately put in mind of the professing readiness of the reluctant Bull-calf.

"*Bull-calf.* Good master corporate Bardolph, stand my "friend, and here is four Harry ten shillings in French crowns "for you. In very truth, Sir, I had as lief be hang'd, Sir, as "go: and yet, for mine own part, Sir, I do not care; but, "rather, because I am unwilling, and, for mine own part, have "a desire to stay with my friends; else, Sir, I did not care, for "mine own part, so much." SHAKESPEARE.

† This "old soldier" is rather young in his geography. Upper Egypt is not precisely in the road to Syria, any more than any part of Egypt is in the road from France to England—a mistake which the whole army seem to have made, and which is in a fair way of costing them dear.

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not forget the dragoon. I hope that my prompt return will indemnify him for the loss which he may sustain by my long absence in this expedition, in which I am forced to persevere—but tell him that he shall lose nothing by waiting. General Berthier has promised me every thing for him; and he is surely a man to be depended upon.

I embrace you a thousand times, and ever remain,

Your son,

LE TURCQ.

Pray tell me if you have heard from Cesar Berthe; he is either at Milan, or Paris.

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No. XXI.

Au Grand Caire, le 10 *Thermidor.*

L'Adjudant-Général BOYER, *au Général en Chef de l'Armée d'Angleterre.*

Mon Général,

NOTRE entrée au Grand Caire, fera sans doute, en France, une de ces impressions qu'occasionne toujours un événement rare ; mais quand on saura l'espèce d'ennemis que nous avons eu à combattre, le peu d'art qu'ils ont employé contre nos moyens, enfin la nullité de leurs entreprises, cette expédition et nos conquêtes ne paroitront plus si extraordinaires.

Nous avons d'abord debuté par un assaut livré à une place sans défense, dont la garnison était de 500 Janissaires qui à peine sçavent tirer le fusil. C'est d'Alexandrie dont je veux parler ; villasse ouverte de tout côté, qui certainement ne pouvoit s'opposer aux efforts de 25,000 hommes qui l'attaquèrent à la fois ; nous y perdimes néanmoins 150 hommes, qu'on auroit pu conserver en sommant la place ; mais il falloit commencer par étonner son ennemi.

L'on a ensuite marché sur les Mamelouks ; gens dont la bravoure est si reconnue en Egypte. Cette soldatesque qui n'a aucune idée de tactique ; qui ne connoit de la guerre que le sang que répandent leurs armes, a paru la première fois en face de notre armée le 25 Messidor.

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D'abord dès la pointe du jour, ils ont fait voir toutes leurs forces, qui rodèrent autour de notre armée, comme des troupeaux marchant tantôt au galop, tantôt au pas, par tas de 10, de 50, de 100, &c. Enfin d'une manière aussi ridicule que curieuse, vingt fois ils ont tenté la charge, mais trouvant partout un point qui leur offroit une résistance à laquelle ils ne s'attendoient pas, ils passèrent leur journée à nous tenir exposés à l'ardeur d'un soleil brûlant; si nous eussions été plus entreprenans ce jour-là, peut-être leur sort eût été décidé; mais le Général Bonaparte temporisa pour connoître son ennemi, et se mettre au fait de son genre de guerre.

La journée se décida par la retraite des Mamelouks, qui perdirent à peine 25 des leurs; nous remontâmes le Nil jusqu'au 3 Thermidor, qui fut le jour décisif de la puissance des Mamelouks.

Quatre mille hommes à cheval, ayant chacun un ou deux valets, vinrent se heurter contre une armée d'élite. Leur charge fut un acte de fureur, de rage, et de désespoir. Ils attaquèrent Desaix et Regnier les premiers. Leurs efforts furent bientôt renversés; les soldats de ces divisions les attendirent avec assurance, et à dix pas un feu de file fait sur eux, en jetta de suite 150 à terre. Ils vinrent ensuite sur la division Bon, qui les accueillit de la même manière. Enfin après divers efforts inutiles, ils prirent la fuite, et emportant leurs trésors, ils se jettent aujourd'hui dans la Haute Egypte. Cette victoire nous a donné la ville du Grand Caire, où nous sommes depuis le 4 au soir.

Il faudroit être familier avec la langue du pays, et outre ça, avoir le secret des grands, pour vous donner

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une idée des ressources et des moyens que nous avons trouvés dans cette ville ; mais à en croire ceux qui se plaignent, et les démandes de plusieurs Généraux qui veulent retourner en France, il paroit qu'il y a un grand mécontentement dans l'armée. En général, il est difficile de se figurer les maux qu'a soufferts l'armée pendant 17 jours de marche ; ne trouvant nulle part de pain, ni vin, nous avons vécu de melons, citrouilles, volailles, viande de buffle, et d'eau du Nil.

Voilà, mon Général, un recit succinct de nos opérations. On parle déjà de remonter l'Egypte, jusqu'aux Cataractes du Nil ; cette marche occasionnera beaucoup de démissions.

Présentez, je vous prie, mes hommages respectueux à Madame Kilmaine, et croyez moi

Votre subordonné,

BOYER.

Rappellez-moi, je vous prie, au souvenir de mes camarades Rivaud, d'Arbois et Villard.

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TRANSLATION.

Grand Cairo, July 28.

Adjutant-General BOYER, *to the Commander in Chief of the Army of England.* *

My General,

OUR entrance into Grand Cairo will doubtless excite that sensation at home which every extraordinary event is calculated to produce; but when you come to know the kind of enemy we had to combat, the little art they employed against us, and the perfect nullity of all their measures, our expedition and our victories will appear to you very common things.

We began by making an assault upon a place without any defence, and garrisoned by about 500 Janiza-

* General Kilmaine. This is the letter of an experienced officer, giving an account to his superior, whom he neither dared, nor, perhaps, wished to deceive, of such military operations as fell under his immediate inspection.

The "account" we know, from the most indisputable authority, to be as correct as it is spirited. It derogates a little, it must be confessed, from the wonderful prowess of Bonaparte and his band of heroes—but what are we to think of a General, who gravely tells of the difficulty of scaling the ramparts of a town, which has scarce a wall or a gate that might not be forced by a serjeant's guard! or of the prodigies of valour exhibited in defeating a horde of brave but undisciplined troops, with a regular and well appointed army, of more than six times their numbers!

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ries, of whom scarce a man knew how to level a musket. I allude to Alexandria, a huge and wretched skeleton of a place, open on every side, and most certainly very unable to resist the efforts of 25,000 men, who attacked it at the same instant. We lost, notwithstanding, 150 men, whom we might have preserved by only summoning the town—but it was thought necessary to begin by striking terror into the enemy.*

After this we marched against the Mamelouc; a people highly celebrated amongst the Egyptians for their bravery. This rabble (I cannot call them soldiers,) which has not the most trifling idea of tactics, and which knows nothing of war but the blood that is spilt in it, appeared for the first time opposed to our army on the 13th of July.

From the first dawn of day, they made a general display of their forces, which straggled round and round our army, like so many cattle; sometimes galloping, and sometimes pacing in groups of 10, 50, 100, &c. After some time, they made several attempts, in a style

* It was a branch of this necessity, we suppose, that prompted Bonaparte, with equal judgment and humanity, to give up the inhabitants of Alexandria to indiscriminate slaughter for the space of four hours! Mr. Gilbert Wakefield tells us, that this General (with whose character he appears to be as well acquainted as he evidently is with most of those with whom he meddles,) "prefers the preservation of a single citizen from "death, to the melancholy glory that could result from a thou-"sand triumphs of a conqueror wading through floods of slaugh-"ter." All this is doubtless very fine and very true! and we must, therefore, conclude that the General had just then forgotten that the unfortunate Alexandrines were "citizens"—a circumstance the more to be wondered at, as he had not long before, termed them so in his Manifesto.

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qually ridiculous and curious, to break in upon us; but finding every where a resistance which they probably did not expect; they spent the day in keeping us exposed to the fury of a burning sun. Had we been a little more enterprizing this day, I think their fate would have been decided; but General Bonaparte temporized, that he might make a trial of his enemy, and become acquainted with their manner of fighting.

The day ended with the retreat of the Mameloucs, who scarcely lost five-and-twenty men. We continued our march up the Nile till the 21st, which was the day that put a final termination to the power of the Mameloucs in Egypt.

Four thousand men on horseback, having each a groom or two, bore down intrepidly on a numerous army of veterans: their charge was an act of fury, rage, and despair. They attacked Desaix and Regnier first. The soldiers of these divisions received them with steadiness, and at the distance of only ten paces opened a running fire upon them, which brought down one hundred and fifty. They then fell upon Bon's division, which received them in the same manner. In short, after a number of unavailing efforts, they made off; and, carrying with them all their treasures, took shelter in Upper Egypt. The fruit of this victory was Grand Cairo, where we have been ever since the evening of the 22d.

I should be familiar with the language of the country, and, what is of still more importance, in the confidence of the Great, to be enabled to give you an idea of the resources found in this city; but, from the complaints I hear, and the demands of several Generals who wish to return, I can easily perceive that there are

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vast discontents in the army. Generally speaking, it is hardly possible to conceive the miseries endured by the army, during its seventeen days' march; finding no where a bit of bread, nor a drop of wine, we were reduced to live on melons, gourds, poultry, buffalo meat, and Nile water.

Such, my General, is the succinct account of our operations. There is a talk already of our ascending the Nile as far as the Cataracts: an expedition that will make a number of officers throw up their commissions.

I beg you to present my respectful homage to Madame Kilmaine, and to believe me

Your subordinate,

BOYER,

Have the goodness to remember me to my comrades Rivaud, D'Arbois, and Villard.

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No. XXII.

Au Grand Caire, le 10 *Thermidor.*

Mes cher Parents,

NOTRE entrée au Grand Caire est une occasion pour moi de vous donner de mes nouvelles, et comme mon intention est de vous mettre entièrement au fait d'une expédition aussi singulière qu'étonnante, je vais récapituler tous nos hauts faits du jour de notre départ de Toulon.

L'armée composée de 30,000 hommes, embarqués partie à Marseille, Toulon, Gênes et Civita Vecchia, a mis à la voile le 30 Floréal, convoyée par 15 vaisseaux de guerre, dont deux armés en flûte, 14 frégates, et plusieurs autres petits bâtiments de guerre. Le convoi en tout formoit un total de 400 voiles; depuis les Croisades l'on n'avoit pas vu pareille armée dans la Méditerranée.

Sans calculer les dangers de l'élément sur lequel nous voguions, ni ceux qu'un ennemi redoutable sur l'eau pouvoit nous faire craindre, l'armée cingle vers l'isle de Malte, où nous arrivons le 22 Prairial. Cette conquête très-importante par elle-même nous coûta peu de monde. Le 24 la place capitula, l'Ordre fut anéanti, le Grand-Maître renvoyé en Allemagne avec de belles promesses: tout enfin succède à nos vœux. Il ne falloit pas perdre de tems, ni s'occuper trop à contempler et raisonner l'avantage que nous tirions de l'occupation de Malte,

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une escadre Angloise forte de 13 grosses voiles, commandée par Nelson, mouilloit dans les eaux de Naples, et épioit nos mouvemens. Bonaparte instruit de la présence de l'ennemi, donne à peine à son escadre le tems de faire de l'eau, il ordonne qu'on mette à la voile, et, le 30 Prairial, l'armée et l'escadre sortent du port de Malte. Nous forçons de voile pour atteindre le second but de notre expédition. Le 7 Messidor, nous signalons l'isle de Candie, enfin, le 12 notre escadre légère signale Alexandrie.

Le même jour, à midi l'escadre de l'Amiral Nelson arrivoit en face du port de cette ville, et offroit aux Turcs de mouiller dans leur port, pour les défendre contre nous; cette offre refusée, l'Anglois met à la voile, fait route sur Cypre, tandis que nous, profitant de toutes ses fautes et utilisant son ineptie, nous descendons la nuit du 13 au 14 sur Marabou ou la Tour des Arabes; à la pointe du jour, toute l'armée étoit à terre. Bonaparte se met à la tête, marche droit sur Alexandrie à travers un désert de trois lieues qui n'offroit pas même de l'eau pour ressource dans un climat où la chaleur est insupportable.

Malgré toutes ces difficultés, nous arrivons sous les murs; une garnison d'à peu près 500 Janissaires, les défendoient.—Le reste de la population de la ville se jette dans les forts, d'autres se portent sur leurs toits. Ainsi disposés, ils attendent notre attaque, la charge bat, nos soldats se précipitent avec fureur sur les remparts qu'ils escaladent, malgré la défense opiniâtre des attaqués; plusieurs généraux sont blessés, entr'autres Kleber.—Nous perdons à peu près 150 hommes, mais la valeur met fin à l'opiniâtreté des Turcs. Ceux-ci repoussés de tout côté, se refugient chez leur Dieu et

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leur Prophète ; ils remplissent leurs mosquées ; hommes, femmes, vieillards, jeunes, et enfans, tous sont massacrés. Au bout de quatre heures, nos soldats mettent fin à leur fureur—la tranquillité renaît en ville—plusieurs forts capitulent ; j'en ai moi-même fait rendre un où 700 Turcs s'étoient retirés. La confiance reprend enfin dans la ville, et le lendemain tout étoit tranquille.

C'est ici le moment de faire une petite digression pour vous mettre au fait du sujet qui nous amène sur ces terres, et va engager Bonaparte de s'emparer de l'Egypte.

La France, par les divers événemens de cette guerre, et de sa révolution, perdant ses colonies, ses comptoirs, verroit infailliblement décheoir son commerce, et un peuple aussi industrieux seroit enfin obligé de négocier en secondes mains les objets les plus essentiels de son commerce ; plusieurs probabilités font envisager comme impossible au gouvernement, sinon de récupérer nos colonies, du moins d'en tirer l'avantage que nous en avions, surtout après la destruction et les horreurs qui se sont commises, joint au décret d'abolition.

Pour s'indemniser d'une perte qui paroît presque réelle, le gouvernement a jetté les yeux sur l'Egypte et la Syrie, contrées qui par leur climat, la bonté de leur sol, et leur fertilité, peuvent devenir les greniers du commerce de la France, son magazin d'abondance, et par la suite des tems l'entrepôt de son commerce des Indes : il est indubitable qu'après nous être emparés et organisés dans ce pays, nous pouvons jetter nos vues plus loin, et par la suite détruire le commerce Anglais dans les Indes, l'utiliser à notre profit, nous rendre les souverains du commerce même de l'Afrique et l'Asie.

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Toutes ces considérations ont engagé, selon moi, le gouvernement à tenter une expédition sur l'Egypte.

Cette partie de la puissance Ottomane est gouvernée depuis plusieurs siècles par une espèce d'hommes que l'on appelle Mamelouks, qui ayant à leur tête des Beys, méconnoissent l'autorité du Grand Seigneur, gouvernent despotiquement et tyranniquement un peuple et un pays qui entre les mains d'une nation policée, deviendront une source de richesses.

C'est dont à ces Mamelouks qu'il faut faire la guerre pour occuper l'Egypte ; leur nombre est d'à peu près 8000, tous à cheval, ils ont 24 Beys pour les commander. Il est important que vous connoissiez un peu ce que sont ces soldats, leur manière de faire la guerre, et leur armure et origine.

Tout Mamelouk est acheté—ils sont tous du Mont Caucase, et de la Georgie.—Il y a parmi eux beaucoup d'Allemands, Russes, même quelques François. Leur religion est la Mahométane. Exercés dès leur jeunesse à l'art militaire, ils sont d'une adresse extraordinaire à cheval, à tirer la carabine, le pistolet, à lancer des traits, des masses d'armes, enfin à sabrer, l'on en a vu couper d'un coup de sabre une tête de coton mouillé.

Chaque Mamelouk a 2, 3, même 4 domestiques. Ceux-ci le suivent toujours à pié, même dans les combats. L'armure du Mamelouk à cheval est de deux grands fusils, que chacun de ses domestiques porte à côté de lui. Ils ne les décharge qu'une fois ; il saisit ensuite deux paires de pistolets qu'il a autour de son corps, puis huit flèches qu'il porte dans un carquois, et qu'il jette fort adroitement avec sa main, puis se sert de la masse d'armes pour assommer. Enfin sa dernière

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ressource sont deux sabres. Il saisit la bride entre ses dents, armé d'un sabre dans chaque main, il court sur son ennemi, et taille à droite et à gauche ; malheur à qui ne pare pas ses coups. Il en est qui taillent un homme en deux. C'est à cette espèce d'hommes que nous allons faire la guerre. Je vais actuellement entrer dans les détails des combats que nous avons essuyés de leur part.

Après avoir organisé à Alexandrie un pouvoir gouvernant, avoir assûré la communication sur les derrières de notre armée, Bonaparte fait prendre pour 5 jours de vivres à son armée, et se prépare à traverser un désert de 20 lieues pour arriver à l'embouchure du Nil, et remonter ce fleuve si célebre jusqu'au Grand Caire, qui est le premier but de son opération. Le 17 Messidor, l'armée se met en marche, remonte à petites journées ce fleuve, rencontrant quelques partis de Mamelouks qui fuirent successivement à notre approche. Enfin, le 24 le Général Bonaparte apprend que les Beys ont marché sur lui avec leurs forces réunies, qu'il doit être attaqué le lendemain. Il organise sa marche de bataille, et prend des précautions.

Bonaparte m'envoye avec trois chaloupes canonnières à la découverte. Je pousse avec cette petite flotille 3 lieues en avant de l'armée. Je descens successivement dans tous les villages situés sur les deux rives du Nil, pour avoir des renseignemens sur les Mamelouks. Dans les uns, je suis accueilli à coups de fusil, d'autres viennent au devant de moi, me reçoivent bien, m'offrent des vivres. Dans un d'eux, il m'arriva un événement drôle et singulier, le Cheick du pays ayant réuni toute sa population, pour venir au devant de moi, s'approche et me demande de quel droit les Chrétiens venoient s'emparer d'un pays qui appartenoit au Grand Seigneur. Je lui ré-

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pondis que c'étoit la volonté de Dieu et de son Prophete Mahomet qui nous y conduisoit; mais, me répliqua-t-il, le Roi de France aura au moins prévenu notre Sultan de cette démarche. Après l'avoir rassuré affirmativement sur cette demande, il me demandoit comment se portoit notre roi? Je lui répondis, fort bien. Puis il me jura sur son turban et sur sa barbe que j'étois parmi des amis. Je profitai de la bonne volonté de ces gens, je recueillis tous les renseignemens possibles sur les Mamelouks; puis continuant mon chemin, je remontai le Nil, et mouillai la nuit en face de Chebreiki, village situé au bord du Nil, où etoient réunis les Mamelouks, et où eut lieu la première affaire.

J'envoyai la nuit mon rapport au Général en Chef, et lui communiquai tout ce que j'avois pu recueillir sur les Mamelouks.

Le lendemain à la pointe du jour, je monte sur le mât de ma canonnière, et découvre six chaloupes Turques qui marchoient sur moi; au même moment m'arrivoit une demi-galère de renfort. Je m'embosse contre ces bâtiments, et à quatre heures et demi, commença entre les deux petites flotilles une canonnade qui dura cinq heures de tems, malgré la supériorité de l'ennemi. Je tins bon. Cependant il s'avança sur moi, et je perdis pendant un instant la demi-galère et une canonnière; mais il ne s'agissoit pas de se rendre, il falloit vaincre. Pendant ces momens d'incertitude notre armée avançoit, et je fus dégagé. Une canonnière Turque sauta en l'air.

Ainsi se passoit notre combat de flotilles, lorsque les Mamelouks s'avançant sur notre armée, rodèrent autour d'elle sans pouvoir l'entamer, sans pouvoir même faire la moindre attaque sur elle. Il est à présumer, qu'étonnés de l'ordre qu'ils virent que présentoient nos colonnes,

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ils remirent à un autre jour le sort de leur empire et de leur fortune. Cette journée aboutit à peu de chose; les Mamelouks ne perdirent gueres que 20 ou 30 hommes, mais nous en tirâmes un grand avantage, celui d'avoir inspiré une idée extraordinaire de notre tactique à un ennemi qui n'en connoît aucune, et qui ne sait guerroyer que par la supériorité des armes, l'adresse, l'agilité, sans ordre, sans tenue, ne sachant pas même marcher par pelotons, allant par hordes, donnant sur son ennemi par bourasque et effarouché.

Les Mamelouks se retirèrent, nous laissant avancer successivement sur le Grand Caire, où se donna l'affaire décisive. Ce fut enfin le 3 à la pointe du jour, que l'armée se trouva à trois lieues du Caire, et à cinq des fameuses et célebres Pyramides d'Egypte. C'étoit dans cet intervalle que les Mamelouks, commandés par le fameux Mourad Bey, le plus puissant des Beys, nous attendoient. Jusqu'à trois heures après-midi, la journée se passoit en escarmouches; enfin l'heure arriva; notre armée, la droite appuyée aux Pyramides, la gauche au Nil, près le village de Embabé, s'apperçut que l'ennemi faisoit un mouvement. C'étoit en effet 2000 Mamelouks, qui se dirigeoient vers la droite, commandée par les Généraux Desaix et Regnier. Jamais je n'ai vu soldats charger avec tant de fureur; abandonnés tous à la rapidité de leurs coursiers, ils fondent comme un torrent sur les divisions, se mettent entre les deux; nos soldats, fermes et inébranlables, les attendent à dix pas, puis leur font un feu roulant accompagné de quelques décharges d'artillerie; dans un clin d'œil, plus de 150 Mamelouks etoient à terre, le reste cherche son salut dans la fuite; ils reviennent néanmois encore à la charge, sont accueillis de la même manière; rebutés

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enfin par notre valeur, ils se rabattent sur notre aile gauche, pour y tenter une seconde fortune.

Le succès de notre droite encourage Bonaparte ; les Mamelouks avoient fortifié à la hâte le village d'Embabé, qui est sur la rive gauche du Nil, et y avoient placé 30 canons avec leurs valets et quelques Janissaires pour en défendre les approches. Le Général ordonne la charge sur ces retranchemens ; deux divisions s'y rendent, malgré une canonnade terrible. Au moment où nos soldats s'y précipitoient au pas de charge, 600 Mamelouks sortent des ouvrages, investissent nos pelotons, tentent de sabrer ; mais au lieu de succès, ils ne trouvent que la mort ; 300 de tués restent à l'instant sur le champ de bataille ; les autres voulant s'échapper, se précipitent dans le Nil, et y périssent tous ; désespérés alors, ils fuient de tous côtés, mettent le feu à leur flotte, en font sauter tous les bâtiments, nous abandonnent leur camp, et plus de 400 chameaux chargés de bagages.

Ainsi finit cette journée, au désavantage d'un ennemi qui croyoit nous hâcher, et prétendoit qu'il est plus facile de couper les têtes de mille Français que de couper une citrouille et un melon (expressions Asiatiques). L'armée poussa le soir même jusqu'à Gizé, demeure de Mourad Bey, le premier des Mamelouks. Le lendemain, nous passâmes le Nil sur des bateaux plats, et la ville du Caire se rendit sans résistance.

Ici finit le récit de nos opérations militaires ; j'entrerai actuellement dans les maux que nous avons soufferts pendant nos marches ; je vous ferai un petit historique du pays que nous avons parcouru et des habitants.

Remontons à Alexandrie. Cette ville n'a plus de son antiquité que le nom. * * * * * étonnans qui y sont restés enfouis et ignorés au milieu d'un peuple qui à peine

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connoît qu'ils existent. Figurez-vous un être impassible, prenant tous les événemens comme ils viennent, que rien n'étonne, qui, la pipe à la bouche, n'a d'autre occupation que d'être sur son cul, devant sa porte, sur un banc, ou devant la maison d'un grand, passe ainsi sa journée, se souciant fort peu de sa famille, de ses enfans; des mères qui errent la figure couverte d'un haillon noir, et offrent aux passans à leur vendre leurs enfans, des hommes à moitié nuds, dont le corps ressemble au bronze, la peau dégoûtante, fouillant dans des ruisseaux bourbeux, et qui, semblables à des cochons, rongent et dévorent ce qu'ils y trouvent, des maisons hautes de vingt pieds au plus, dont le toît est une plate-forme, l'intérieur une écurie, l'extérieur l'aspect de quatre murailles. Voilà les maisons d'Alexandrie. Ajoutez qu'autour de cet amas de misère et d'horreurs, sont les fondemens de la cité la plus célebre de l'antiquité, les monumens les plus précieux de l'art.

Sortis de cette ville, pour remonter le Nil, vous rencontrez et passez à travers un désert nud comme la main, où toutes les 4 à 5 lieues, vous rencontrez un mauvais puits d'eau saumâtre. Figurez-vous une armée obligée de passer au travers de ces plaines arides, qui n'offrent pas même au soldat un asyle contre les chaleurs insupportables qui y regnent. Le soldat portant pour cinq jours de vivres, chargé de son sac, habillé de laine, au bout d'une heure de marche accablé par le chaud et la pesanteur des effets qu'il porte, il se décharge, il jette ses vivres, ne songeant qu'au présent, sans penser au lendemain: arrive la soif, et il ne trouve pas d'eau; la faim, pas de pain; c'est ainsi qu'à travers les horreurs que présente ce tableau, l'on a vu des soldats mourir de soif, d'inanition, de chaleur; d'autres, voyant les souffrances

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de leurs camarades, se brûler la cervelle ; d'autres se jetter armes et bagages dans le Nil, et périr au milieu des eaux.

Chaque jour de nos marches nous offroit un pareil spectacle ; et, chose inoule ; et que personne ne croira facilement ! C'est que l'armée entiere, pendant une marche de 17 jours, n'a pas eu de pain ; le soldat se nourrissoit de citrouilles, de melons, de poules et quelques légumes qu'il trouvoit dans le pays : telle a été la nourriture de tous depuis le Général jusqu'au dernier soldat ; souvent même le Général a jeûné pendant 18 et 24 heures, parce que le soldat arrivant le premier dans les villages, livroit tout au pillage, et que souvent il falloit se contenter de son rebut, ou de ce que son intempérance abandonnoit.

Il est inutile de vous parler de notre boisson : nous vivons ici tous sous la loi de Mahomet, elle défend le vin : mais par contre, elle nous fournit abondamment l'eau du Nil.

Faut-il vous parler du pays situé sur les deux rives du Nil ? Pour vous en donner une idée juste et précise, il faut entrer dans la marche topographique de ce fleuve.

Deux lieues au-dessous du Caire, il se divise en deux branches ; l'une descend à Rosette, l'autre à Damiette ; l'entre deux de ces eaux est le Delta, pays extraordinairement fertile, qu'arrose le Nil : aux extrémités des deux branches, du côté des terres est une lisière de pays cultivé, qui n'a guere qu'une lieue de large, tantôt plus, tantôt moins : passez au delà, vous entrez dans les Déserts, les uns aboutissent à la Lybie, les autres aux plaines qui vont à la Mer Rouge. De Rosette au Caire, le pays est très-habité ; on y cultive beaucoup de riz, du blé, des lentilles, blé de Turquie : les villages sont les uns sur

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les autres ; leur construction est exécrable, ce n'est autre chose que de la boue travaillée avec les pieds et les mains et entassée, des trous pratiqués dessus. Pour vous en donner une plus juste idée, rappellez-vous les tas de neige que font les enfans chez nous, les fours qu'ils construisent ressemblent parfaitement aux palais des Egyptiens : les cultivateurs, appellés communément Fellas, sont extrêmement laborieux, ils vivent de peu de chose, et dans une malpropreté qui fait horreur : j'en ai vu boire le surplus de l'eau que mes chameaux et mes chevaux laissoient dans l'abreuvoir.

Voilà cette Egypte si renommée par les historiens et les voyageurs ; à travers toutes ces horreurs, les maux qu'on endure, les misères qui sont le partage de l'armée, je conviens cependant que c'est le pays le plus susceptible de donner à la France une colonie dont les profits lui seront incalculables ; mais il faut du tems, et des hommes. Je me suis apperçu que ce n'est pas avec des soldats que l'on fonde des colonies, les nôtres surtout ; leurs propos - - - - -, ils sont terribles dans les combats, terribles après la victoire, sans contredit les plus intrépides soldats du monde ; mais peu faits pour des expéditions lointaines : ils se laissent rebuter par un propos ; inconséquens, lâches, ils en tiennent eux-mêmes : on en a entendu dire, en voyant passer des généraux : " les voilà, les bourreaux des Français"—et mille autres de cette nature.

Le calice est versé, je le boirai jusqu'à la lie : j'ai pour moi, la constance, ma santé, un courage qui, j'espère, ne m'abandonnera pas, avec cela je pousserai jusqu'au bout.

Parlons aussi un peu du Grand Caire. Cette ville,

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la capitale d'un royaume qui n'a pas de fin (ainsi l'appellent les savans du pays) contient 400,000 ames. Sa forme est un grand boyau rempli de maisons entassées les unes sur les autres, sans ordre, sans distribution, sans méthode, une populace semblable à celle d'Alexandrie, sans connoissances, enfin le comble de l'ignorance ; où l'on régarde avec admiration celui qui sait lire et écrire ; cette ville, dis-je, est néanmoins l'entrepôt et le lieu central d'un commerce considérable ; c'est là où aboutissent les caravanes de la Mecque, et celles qui viennent des Indes. (Par ma première, j'aurai, occasion de vous parler de ces caravanes.)

J'ai vu hier recevoir le divan que compose le Général Bonaparte ; il est composé de neuf personnes : j'ai vu neuf automates habillés à la Turque, de superbes turbans, des barbes, et des costumes qui me rappellent les images des douze apôtres, que Papa tient dans l'armoire : quant à l'esprit, les connoissances, le génie et les talens, je ne vous en dis rien ; ce chapitre est toujours en blanc en Turquie. Nulle part autant d'ignorance, nulle part autant de richesses, et nulle part aussi mauvais et sordide usage du temporel.

En voilà assez sur ce chapitre : j'ai voulu vous faire ma description ; j'en ai, sans contredit, omis bien des articles, le rapport du Général Bonaparte y suppléera.

Ne soyez pas inquiet sur mon compte ; je souffre à la vérité, mais c'est avec toute l'armée ; mes effets me sont parvenus. J'ai, dans nos adversités, tous les avantages de la fortune ; soyez tranquille, je jouis d'une bonne santé.

Menagez vos santés ; j'aurai, j'espère, le bonheur de

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vous embrasser avant un an, je sais l'apprécier d'avance, et vous le prouverai.

J'embrasse bien tendrement mes sœurs,

Et suis avec respect,

Votre très-soumis fils,

BOYER.

TRANSLATION.

Grand Cairo, July 28th.

My dear Parents,

OUR entrance into this city furnishes me with an opportunity of writing to you ; * and as my design is to

* This letter has embarrassed us considerably. It bears the same signature as the preceding ; and yet we can with difficulty persuade ourselves that it was written by the same person. The letter which the reader has just seen, is from a master hand, confident of knowledge, and deciding on facts without periphrasis, or affectation. The present, which is also well written, and with a sufficient knowledge of the transactions it records, is very inferior to it in simplicity, and manly decision.

The writer is incessantly labouring to say every thing in the finest manner, and doles out his little modicums of information n a style of gravity and self-importance, that has sometimes made us smile. With all this, however, the letter is very creditable to the author's abilities. It furnishes, besides, many important

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make you fully acquainted with an expedition no less singular than astonishing, I shall take the liberty of recapitulating our atchievements since the day we left Toulon.

The land army, composed of 30,000 men, embarked at Marseilles, Toulon, Genoa, and Civita Vecchia, set sail on the 19th of May, under the convoy of 15 sail of the line (two of which were armed *en flute*)* 14 frigates, and several smaller ships of war. The convoy altogether formed a total of more than 400 sail; and never perhaps, since the Crusades, had so large an armament appeared in the Mediterranean.

facts, and it discovers, amidst a great solicitude to conceal it, that the French troops have been miserably duped by their government, and that they are rapidly hastening to total and irremediable distruction.

We were at first inclined to believe that the difference which we remarked in the style and manner of the two letters might originate in their being written to different persons: one an experienced commander, to whom it was necessary to represent things as they really were! the other, a parent ignorant, perhaps, of military affairs, and likely to be much better pleased with a florid narrative of extraordinary events, than with a brief relation of storming towns without walls, and gaining victories without enemies!—But on reconsidering the matter, we think the variation too considerable to be even thus accounted for. We frankly confess that we have no other solution of the difficulty to offer; and we, therefore, leave the whole to the reader: only repeating our first assertion, that the writing and the name subscribed to this and the preceding letter, are to the best of our judgment the same.

* These were the Venitian sixty-fours. In his enumeration of the forces embarked, Boyer omits those that were taken on board, at Ajaccio, and who amounted to several thousands: his list of ships of war is correct.

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Without calculating the dangers of the element on which we were embarked, or those which we had to apprehend from an enemy formidable at sea, we steered with a favourable wind for Malta, where we arrived on the 10th of June. The conquest of this important place cost us but a few men. It capitulated on the 12th—the Order was abolished, and the Grand Master packed off to Germany with a budget of fine promises; in a word, every thing succeeded to our wish. Time, however, was precious—we had no leisure to amuse ourselves with calculating the advantages to be derived from the possession of Malta; for an English squadron of 13 sail of the line, commanded by Nelson, was at anchor in the Bay of Naples,* and watched all our motions. Bonaparte, informed of this, scarce gave us time to take in water: he ordered the fleet to weigh immediately, and, on the 18th of June, we were already in full sail for the second object of our expedition. We fell in with Candia on the 25th, and on the 30th our light vessels made Alexandria.

Admiral Nelson had been off the city on the noon of this very day; and proposed to the Turks to anchor in the port, by way of securing it against us; but as his proposal was not accepted, he stood on for Cyprus; while we, profiting by his errors, and turning even his stupidity to our own advantage, made good our landing on the 2d of July, at Marabou. The whole army was

* It is unnecessary to say that this was not the case. Once for all, we must observe, that we have seldom thought it necessary to take notice of such geographical and historical blunders as appear in this correspondence;—the present letter, for instance, has several of both kind; but we leave them to the reader.

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on shore by break of day, and Bonaparte putting himself at their head, marched straight to Alexandria, across a desert of three leagues, which did not even afford a drop of water, in a climate where the heat is insupportable.

Notwithstanding all these difficulties, we reached the town, which was defended by a garrison of near 500 Janizaries. Of the rest of the inhabitants, some had thrown themselves into the forts, and others got on the tops of their houses. In this situation they waited our attack. The charge is sounded—our soldiers fly to the ramparts, which they scale, in spite of the obstinate defence of the besieged: many Generals are wounded, amongst the rest Kleber—we lose near 150 men, but courage, at length, subdues the obstinacy of the Turks! Repulsed on every side, they betake themselves to God and their Prophet, and fill their mosques—men, women, old, young, children at the breast, ALL are massacred.* At the end of four hours, the fury of our troops ceases—tranquillity revives in the city—several forts capitulate—I myself reduce one into which 700 Turks had fled—confidence springs up—and, by the next day, all is quiet.

It will not be amiss, I think, to make a short digression just here—for the sake of informing you of the object of this expedition, and of the causes which have induced Bonaparte to take possession of Egypt.

* These, then, are the triumphs of the "Hero of Italy!" of "the fond object of Mr. Wakefield's daily and nightly solici-"tude!" of—but we dare not trust ourselves with the subject. On this man, and his sanguinary admirers, be the blood of this innocent people; and the ineffable contempt and abhorrence that naturally follow cruelties without motive or end, and base and abject panegyrics on their savage perpetrators!

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France, by the different events of the war and the Revolution, having lost her colonies and her factories, must inevitably see her commerce decline, and her industrious inhabitants compelled to procure at second hand the most essential articles of their trade. Many weighty reasons must compel her to look upon the recovery of those colonies, if not impossible, yet altogether unlikely to produce any of the advantages which were derived from them before they became a scene of devastation and horror; especially, if we may add to this, the decree for abolishing the slave trade.

To indemnify itself, therefore, for this loss, which may be considered as realized, the Government turned its views towards Egypt and Syria; countries which, by their climate and their fertility, are capable of being made the storehouse of France, and, in process of time, the mart of her commerce with India. It is certain, that by seizing and organizing these countries, we shall be enabled to extend our views still further; to annihilate, by degrees, the English East India trade, enter into it with advantage ourselves; and, finally, get into our hands the whole commerce of Africa and of Asia.

These, I think, are the considerations which have induced the Government to undertake the present expedition against Egypt.

This part of the Ottoman dominion has been for many ages governed by a species of men called Mameloucs, who, having a number of Beys at their head, disavow the authority of the Grand Seignior, and rule despotically and tyrannically, a people and a country, which, in the hands of a civilized nation, would become a mine of wealth.

To gain possession of Egypt, then, it is necessary to

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subdue these Mameloucs;* they are in number about 8000—all cavalry—under the command of 24 Beys. It is of consequence to give you some idea of these people, their manner of making war, their arms, defensive and offensive, and their origin.

Every Mamelouc is purchased—they are all from Georgia and Mount Caucasus—there are a great number of Germans and Russians amongst them, and even some French. Their religion is Mahometanism: exercised from their infancy in the military art, they acquire an extraordinary degree of dexterity in the management of their horses, in shooting with the carabine and pistol, in throwing the lance, and in wielding the sabre; there have been instances of their severing, at one blow, a head of wet cotton.

Every Mamelouc has two, three, and sometimes four servants, who follow him on foot wherever he goes; nay, even to the field. The arms of a Mamelouc on horseback, are two carabines, carried by his servants—these are never fired but once—two pair of pistols stuck in his girdle; eight light lances in a kind of quiver, which he flings with admirable dexterity; and an iron-headed mace. When all these are discharged, he comes

* This is a better reason for declaring war against them, than the peculations of a Bey who has been dead these twenty years. But this is not the only instance in which the hypocrisy and falsehood of Bonaparte have been completely detected and exposed by the inadvertency of his agents. It is true, indeed, that we want no testimonies but those of our own eyes and our own understanding to convince us of his real motives; but still, it is not unpleasant nor unprofitable to be told of them, from time to time, by persons whose information can neither be disputed nor denied.

We recommend the three or four paragraphs preceding this, to the reader's serious attention.

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to his last resource—his two sabres: putting, then, the bridle of his horse between his teeth, he takes one of them in each hand, and rushes full speed upon the foe, cutting and slashing to right and left. Woe be to those who cannot parry his blows! for some of them have been known to cleave a man down the middle. Such are the people with whom we are at war! I shall now proceed with my narrative.

Having organized a government at Alexandria, and secured a communication* with the rear of our army, Bonaparte ordered every man to furnish himself with five days' provisions, and made preparations for passing a desert of twenty leagues in extent, in order to arrive at the mouth of the Nile, and ascend that celebrated stream to Grand Cairo—the prime object of his expedition. We began our march on the 5th of July, and reached the river by easy stages, falling in, on our route, with some detached parties of Mameloucs, who retired as we advanced. It was not till the 12th, that General Bonaparte learned that the Beys were marching to meet him, with their united forces, and that he might expect to be attacked the next day: he marched therefore in order of battle, and took the necessary precautions.

Bonaparte sent me forward to gain intelligence, with

* We have spoken of this organization in our Introduction. The "communication that was kept up with the rear of the "army," is almost too ridiculous to be mentioned. It never existed, it never can exist, with Bonaparte's present numbers; and every letter, and Boyer's among the rest, proves that before the General was out of sight of Alexandria, his communication with it was as completely cut off as if the Alps stood between them!

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three armed sloops; with this little flotilla I advanced about three leagues in front of the army. I landed at every village on both sides of the Nile, to gain what information I could respecting the Mameloucs; in some I was fired at, in others received with kindness, and offered provisions. In one of them I met with an adventure as laughable * as it is singular: the Cheik of the place having collected all his people to meet me, came forward from the rest, and demanded to know by what right the Christians were come to seize a country which belonged to the Grand Seignior. I answered him, that it was the will of God and his Prophet to bring us there. But, rejoined he, the King of France ought at least to have informed the Sultan of this step. I assured him that this had been done; and he then asked me how our King did? I replied, very well; upon which he swore by his turban and his beard, that he would always look on me as his friend. I took advantage of the kindness of these good people, collected all the information I could, and continuing my route up the Nile, came to anchor for the night opposite a village called Chebriki, where the Mameloucs were collected in force, and where the first action took place.

I sent off my dispatches to the Commander in Chief

* Boyer's ideas of humour are not extremely correct. We see nothing very facetious in a blasphemous falsehood, nor in basely availing himself of the name of his murdered King, to deceive a hospitable stranger, ignorant alike of him and his nation. This little anecdote is not, however, without its use; it proves with what truth these secluded people are represented as having injured the French; and with what justice they are delivered over in consequence of it, to pillage, murder, and utter devastation!

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that night; in these I gave him all the information I had been able to obtain respecting the Mameloucs.

As soon as the day broke, I clambered up the mast of my vessel, and discovered six Turkish shalops bearing down upon me; at the same time I was reinforced by a demi-galley. I drew out my little fleet to meet them, and at half after four a cannonade began between us, which lasted five hours; in spite of the enemy's superiority, I made head against them, they continued nevertheless to advance upon me, and I lost for a moment the demi-galley, and one of the gun-boats. Yielding, however, was out of the question, it was absolutely necessary to conquer;—in this dreadful moment our army came up, and I was disengaged. One of the enemy's vessels blew up. Such was the termination of our naval combat.

While this was passing, the Mameloucs advanced upon our army; they rode round and round it, without finding any point where an impression might be made, and, indeed, without any attempt at it. I presume, that, astonished at the manner in which our columns were drawn up, they were induced to put off to a future day the decision of their fortune and their empire. This affair was trifling enough in itself, the Mameloucs only lost about 20 men, but we reaped a considerable advantage from it, that of having given an extraordinary idea of our tactics to an enemy unacquainted with any; who knows of no other superiority in arms than that of sleight and agility; without order or firmness, unable even to march in platoons, advancing in confused groups, and falling upon the enemy in sudden starts of wild and savage fury.

After the retreat of the Mameloucs, we advanced

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upon Cairo, where the decisive action took place. It was, in fine, on the 22d of July, that the army found itself at daybreak about three leagues from Cairo, and five from the so much celebrated Pyramids. Here the Mameloucs, commanded by the famous Mourad, the most powerful of the Beys, awaited us: till three in the afternoon the day was wasted in skirmishes; at length the hour arrived! our army, flanked on the right by the Pyramids, and on the left by the Nile, perceived the enemy was making a movement. Two thousand Mameloucs advanced against our right, commanded by Generals Desaix and Regnier. Never did I see so furious a charge! giving their horses the rein, they rushed on the divisions like a torrent, and pushed in between them. Our soldiers, firm and immoveable, let them come within ten paces, and then began a running fire, accompanied with some discharges of artillery; in the twinkling of an eye more than 150 of them fell, the rest sought their safety in flight. They returned, however, to the charge, and were received in the same manner. Wearied out at length by our resistance, they turned, and attacked our left wing, to see if fortune would there be more favourable to them.

The success of our right encouraged Bonaparte. The Mameloucs had thrown up a hasty entrenchment in the village of Embabet, on the left bank of the Nile, in which they had placed thirty pieces of cannon, with their valets, and a small number of Janizaries to defend the approaches—this entrenchment the General gave orders to force; two divisions undertook it, in spite of a terrible cannonade. At the instant our soldiers were rapidly advancing towards it, six hundred Mameloucs sallied from the works, surrounded our platoons, and

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endeavoured to cut them down;—but, instead of succeeding, met their own deaths. Three hundred of them dropt on the spot; and the rest, in their attempt to escape, threw themselves into the Nile, where they all perished. Despairing now of any success, the Mameloucs fled on all sides; set fire to their fleet, which soon after blew up, and abandoned their camp to us, with more than four hundred camels loaded with baggage.

Thus ended the day, to the confusion of an enemy who were possessed with the belief that they should cut us in pieces; and who had boasted that it was as easy to cut off the heads of a thousand Frenchmen, as to divide a gourd or a melon.*

The army marched on that night to Gizeh; the residence of Murat, the Chief of the Mameloucs. The next day we crossed the Nile in flat-bottomed boats, and entered Cairo without resistance.

Here ends the narrative of our military operations. I propose now to give you some account of the miseries we underwent in our march, together with a brief description of the country we have traversed, and of the inhabitants.

Let us return to Alexandria.—This city has nothing of its antiquity but the name—if there be any other

* Boyer subjoins that this is an Asiatic phrase:—the phrase may be Asiatic for ought we know, but the idea we hazard little in affirming to be European. It is but changing "Frenchmen" to the "slaves of despots," and "cutting off heads" to "biting the dust," and the dispatches of Bonaparte himself will furnish Boyer with a thousand of those empty flourishes.

> Ut nemo in sese tentat descendere, nemo;
> Sed præcedenti spectatur mantica tergo!

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relicks* of it, they remain utterly unregarded and unknown, among a people, who appear to be scarce conscious of their own existence. Figure to yourself a being incapable of feeling, taking events just as they occur, and surprised at nothing; who with a pipe in his mouth, has no other occupation than that of squatting on his breech before his own door, or that of some great man, and dreaming away the day, without a thought of his wife or family. Figure to yourself too, a number of mothers strolling about, wrapped up in a dirty black rag, and offering to sell their children to every one they meet;—Men half naked, of the colour of copper, and of a most disgusting appearance, raking in the puddles and kennels like hogs, and devouring every thing they find there;—houses of twenty feet in height at the most, of which the roof is flat, the interior a stable, and the exterior four mud walls.—Figure to yourself all this, I say, and you will have a pretty correct idea of the city of Alexandria. Add, that around this mass of misery and horror, lie the ruins of the most celebrated city of the ancient world, the most precious monuments of the arts.

Leaving this city to ascend the Nile, you cross a desert, bare as my hand, where every three or four leagues you find a paltry well of brackish water. Imagine to yourself the situation of an army obliged to pass these arid plains, which do not afford the slightest shelter against the intolerable heat which prevails there! The soldier, loaded with provisions, finds himself, be-

* Here are two or three words obliterated in the original; these we have ventured to guess at; we know not with what success.

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fore he has marched an hour, overcome by the heat, and the weight of what he carries, and throws away every thing that adds to his fatigue, without thinking of to-morrow. Thirst attacks him! he has not a drop of water; hunger!—he has not a bit of bread. It was thus that amidst the horrors which this faithful picture presents, we beheld several of the soldiers die of thirst, of hunger, and of heat; others, seeing the sufferings of their comrades, blew out their own brains; others threw themselves, loaded as they were, into the Nile, and perished in the water.

Every day of our march renewed these dreadful scenes; and, what was never heard of before—what will stagger all belief; the army, during a march of seventeen days, never tasted bread—the soldiers lived during the whole of this time on gourds, melons, poultry, and such vegetables as they found on their route. Such was the food of all, from the General to the common soldier,—nay, the General was often obliged to fast for eighteen or twenty hours, because the privates generally arriving first, plundered the villages of every article of subsistence, and frequently reduced him to the necessity of satisfying himself with the refuse of their hunger, or of their intemperance!

It is useless to speak of our drink. We all live here under the law of Mahomet, which forbids the use of wine; but, by way of indemnity, allows us as much Nile water as we can drink.

Shall I give you some account of the country between the two branches of the Nile? To do this properly, I must lay before you a topographical chart of the course and direction of the river.

Two leagues below Cairo it divides itself into two

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branches; one of which falls into the sea at Rosetta; the other at Damietta: the intermediate country is called the Delta, and is extremely fertile. Along the outer sides of the two branches, runs a slip of cultivated land, broader in some places than in others, but no where more than a league: beyond this are the Deserts, extending on the left to Lybia, and on the right to the Red Sea. From Rosetta to Cairo, the country is well peopled, and produces a good deal of wheat, rice, lentils, &c. The villages are crowded together—their construction is execrable, being little more than heaps of mud trodden into some consistency, hollowed out within; and resembling, in every feature, the snow heaps of our children. If you recollect the shape of those oven-like piles, you have a perfect idea of the palaces of the Egyptians!

The husbandmen, commonly called *Fellas*, are extremely laborious; they live on little, and in a state of filth and degradation that excites horror. I have seen them swallow the residue of the water which my camels and horses happened to leave in their troughs.

Such is this Egypt, so celebrated by travellers and historians! In despite, however, of all these horrors, of the hardships we endure, and of the miseries the army is condemned to suffer, I am still inclined to think that it is a country calculated above all others to give us a colony which may be productive of the highest advantages;*

* There spoke a true Frenchman. Every circumstance proves that Egypt is wholly incapable of becoming a profitable colony to France, and Boyer himself is fully convinced of it; yet, in spite of his better knowledge, he drops the assurance of the fact, and in the fallacious expectations of future advantages, consoles himself for present disappointments!

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but for this, time and hands are necessary. I have seen enough to be convinced, that it is not with soldiers that colonies are founded; above all, with such soldiers as ours! Their language - - - - - - (*MS. illegible*). They are terrible in the field, terrible after victory,* and, without contradiction, the most intrepid troops in the world: but they are not formed for distant expeditions. A word dropt at random, will dishearten them—they are lazy, capricious, and exceedingly turbulent and licentious in their conversation—they have been heard to say, as their officers passed by, "there go the Jack Ketches of the French!" and a thousand other things of the same kind.

The cup of bitterness is poured out, and I will drain it to the dregs. I have on my side firmness, health, and a spirit which I trust will never flag: with these I will persevere to the end.

I have yet said nothing of Grand Cairo. This city, the capital of a kingdom, which, to borrow the language of the *Savans* of the country, has no bounds, contains about 400,000 souls. Its form is that of a long shaft or tunnel, crowded with houses piled one upon another, without order, distribution, or method of any kind. Its inhabitants, like those of Alexandria, are plunged in the most brutal ignorance, and regard with astonishment the prodigy who is able to read and write! This city, however, such as I have described it, is the centre of a considerable commerce, and the spot where the caravans of Mecca and India terminate their respective journies. (My next will give you some account of these caravans.)

* Alluding, perhaps, to the massacre at Alexandria.

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I went yesterday to see the installation of the Divan, which Bonaparte has formed. It consists of nine persons.* And such a sight! I was introduced to nine bearded automatons, dressed in long robes, and turbans; and whose mien and appearance altogether, put me strongly in mind of the figures of the twelve apostles in my grandfather's little cabinet. I shall say nothing to you of their talents, knowledge, genius, wit, &c.—this is always a blank chapter in Turkey. No where is there to be found such deplorable ignorance as in every part of that country—no where such wealth, and no where so vile and sordid a misuse of the blessing.

Enough of this. I have now, I think, fulfilled my intentions: many topics have been doubtless overlooked; but these deficiencies will be well supplied by the dispatches of General Bonaparte.

Do not entertain any uneasiness on my account. I suffer, it is true, but the whole army suffers with me. My baggage has reached me in safety; I have, therefore, in the general distress, all the advantages of fortune. Once again, be easy; I am in good health.

Take care of your healths; in less than a year I hope to have the happiness of embracing you. I know how to appreciate that happiness in advance, as I will one day shew you.

I embrace my sisters with the sincerest affection, and am with respect,

Your most obedient son,

BOYER.

* See the Introduction.

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No. XXIII.

Au Grand Caire, le 11 *Thermidor, an* 6.

DUPUIS, *Général de Brigade, commandant la Place, à son ami* CARLO.

SUR terre comme sur mer, en Europe comme en Afrique, je suis sur les épines ; oui, mon cher, à l'arrivée devant Malte, je fus en prendre possession et détruire la Chevalerie ; à notre arrivée à Alexandrie, et après l'avoir prise d'assaut, je fus nommé commandant de la place ; aujourd'hui, après vingt jours d'une marche des plus pénibles dans les Déserts, nous sommes arrivés au Grand Caire. Cependant après avoir battu les Mamelouks ; c'est-à-dire, après les avoir mis en fuite ; car ils ne sont pas dignes de notre colère.

Me voilà donc, mon ami, revêtu d'une nouvelle dignité que je n'ai pu refuser, lorsque l'on m'y a joint le commandement du Caire ; cette place étoit trop belle pour moi, pour que je puisse refuser le nouveau grade que Bonaparte m'a offert.

La conduite de la brigade à l'affaire des Piramides est unique ; elle seule a détruit 4000 Mamelouks à cheval, pris 40 pieces de canon qui étoient en batterie, tous leurs retranchements, leurs drapeaux, leurs magnifiques chevaux, leurs riches bagages, puisqu'il n'est pas de soldat qui n'aie 100 louis sans exagérer, et il y en a plusieurs qui en ont 500.

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Enfin, mon cher, j'occupe aujourd'hui le plus beau sérail du Caire, celui de la Sultane favorite d'Ibrahim Bey, Soudan d'Egypte. J'occupe son palais enchanté, et je respecte au milieu des nymphes, la promesse que j'ai faite à ma bonne amie d'Europe; oui, je ne lui ai pas fait une infidélité, et j'espère que cela tiendra.

Cette ville est abominable, les rues y respirent la peste par leurs immondices; le peuple est affreux et abruti. Je prends de la peine comme un cheval et ne puis encore parvenir à me connoître dans cette immense cité, plus grande que Paris, mais bien différente: ah, qu'il me tarde de revoir la Ligurie!

Oui, mon cher, quoique j'aye beaucoup d'agrément, que rien ne me manque; où sont mes amis? où est la respectable Marina? je pleure sur notre séparation, mais j'espère que bientôt je serai auprès. Oui bientôt, car je m'ennuye diablement auprès d'eux.

Notre passage du Désert et nos diverses batailles ne nous ont presque rien coûté. L'armée se porte bien. On l'habille dans ce moment, et je ne sais pas si j'irai en Syrie; nous sommes prêts. J'ai eu le malheur de perdre ma . . . . . à la prise d'assaut d'Alexandrie.

Donnez-moi de vos nouvelles, je vous en prie. Enfin jugez de la lâcheté de ce grand peuple tant vanté. Je me suis emparé de cette immense cité, le 5 du mois, avec deux compagnies de grenadiers seulement. Cette ville a 600,000 ames de population.

Adieu, mon bon ami, j'embrasse mille fois Marcellin, sa mère, son père, son papa Carlo, et vos amis, et croyez-moi pour la vie le plus dévoué de vos amis.

C. DUPUIS.

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J'écris par ce courier à Pijon et Spinola; dites à Pijon qu'il est bien heureux d'avoir été exilé. Plût-au-Ciel que je l'eusse été aussi. Je l'embrasse et la famille. Mes amitiés, au pauvre Pietro.

J'embrasse Honoria, votre frère, et votre oncle.

TRANSLATION.

Grand Cairo, July 29.

DUPUIS, *General of Brigade, &c. to his friend Carlo.*

ON land as on sea, in Europe as in Africa, I am doomed to be on thorns; *—Yes, my friend, on our arrival at Malta I went to take possession of it, and to abolish the Order: on our arrival at Alexandria, and storming it, I was made Governor of the place. At present, after a most painful march of twenty days, we are arrived at Grand Cairo, not, indeed, without beating the Mame-

* This is the strangest letter we ever met with. It is an incoherent rhapsody, which, if the author was sober when he wrote it, proves him to be a singular compound of madness and folly. Such as he is, however, we see Bonaparte selecting him for the Governor of Grand Cairo! Yet on farther consideration, we do not think the General much less happy than usual in his choice; for a wise man would not have accepted the post; and a sane man could not have held it "*to the purpose.*"

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loucs, *en passant;* that is to say, putting them to flight, for they are not worth our anger.

Here I am, then, my friend, graced with a new dignity; which I could not refuse, since it was no less than the government of Cairo; a dignity much too fine for me to refuse, when offered by Bonaparte.

The conduct of the Brigade at the affair of the Pyramids is unique. It cut to pieces, itself, 4000 of the Mamelouc cavalry, took a battery of forty pieces of cannon, all their intrenchments, their colours, their magnificent horses, and their rich baggage—since there is not a single soldier who has not 100 louis d'ors, without exaggeration; and many of them 500. *

In fine, my dear friend, I occupy at present the finest seraglio in Cairo; that of the favourite Sultana of Ibrahim Bey, Sultan of Egypt. I occupy his charming palace, and I respect, in the midst of his nymphs, the promise which I made to my dear girl in Europe—No; I have not yet been guilty of one act of infidelity towards her, and I hope, yes, I still hope to hold out.

This is a most horrid place. The streets are filthy and pestilential; and the inhabitants hideous and brutified. I toil like a horse, and yet I cannot find my way through this immense chaos, far more extensive than Paris; but Heavens! how different!—O how I long to get back to Liguria.

* Dupuis has repeated this contemptible falsehood, in a letter which has found its way to Paris. "Our troops," says he, "roll in gold, and are all mounted on huge asses, which gallop *ventre à terre!!!*" This looks as if the Mameloucs had reserved, as usual, the horses for themselves; which will be found, we imagine, to be pretty nearly the case. The rest of the letter is too absurd for notice.

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Yes, my dear fellow, though I enjoy myself tolerably well, and want for nothing—yet where are my friends? where is the worthy Marina? I weep like a child at our separation: but I hope that I shall soon be with her—yes, soon, for I am d——nably sick of every body here.

Our march across the Desert, and our battles, cost us very few men. The army is in good health, and about to be new clothed. I do not know whether I shall go to Syria or not; we are all ready. I had the misfortune to lose my *(word illegible)* at the storming of Alexandria.

Let me hear from you, I beg. Finally, judge of the paltroonry of this great people of whom we have heard so much. I took possession of this immense city on the 23d of this month, with only two companies of grenadiers. It has more than 600,000 inhabitants.

Adieu, my dear friend, I embrace Marcellin a thousand times, his mother, his father, his papa Carlo, and all friends, and believe me till death the most devoted of your friends.

C. Dupuis.

I write by this courier to Pijon, and Spinola—tell Pijon that he was in high luck to be banished; * would

* We know nothing of General Dupuis. From his connections he appears to be a Genoese; but from his name and his mode of thinking, a Frenchman. He is in extacy at his good fortune, and longing to be rid of it! Proud of the government of Cairo, and wishing he had been hanged, or banished, before he went on the

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to God that I had been so too! I embrace him and his family. My regard to poor Pietro.

I embrace Honorio, your brother, and your uncle.

expedition which conferred it on him! He seems to reason somewhat in the manner of Sancho—"To be sure, a Governor is a "great man; but, if this is to be a Governor of Barataria, I "would rather have staid at home, and kept goats."

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No. XXIV.

Alexandrie, le 11 *Thermidor.*

LE ROY, *Ordonnateur de la Marine, à l'Amiral* BRUEYS.

Citoyen Amiral,

EN exécution des ordres du Général Kleber, il part pour Rosette, un Agent des subsistances militaires. Je lui donnerai une lettre pour le Citoyen Jaubert, qui pourra joindre les instructions pour que les achats de votre escadre, ceux pour les services de terre et de mer, soit à Alexandrie soit à Rosette, n'occasionnent pas une nuisible concurrence.

La conservation de la santé a nommé pour Le Bequiere, le Citoyen Ferrière, qui ira prendre vos ordres.

Le Capitaine de frégate, De la Rue, m'écrit de Rosette, et me demande avec instance, des schermes. C'est avec beaucoup de peine que je suis parvenu à en réunir cinq, pour envoyer à vos ordres: on est à la recherche de la 6me.

La prise du Caire va, je le pense, nous procurer plus de facilité pour les transports; mais à tout événement pour que le service de vos subsistances et votre eau, celui de l'expédition, des effets de l'armée de terre, la correspondance avec Rosette, la nécessité d'aller chercher de l'eau pour Alexandrie qui sous peu en manquera. Tous ces besoins m'engagent à vous proposer d'envoyer tel bâtiment de guerre que vous jugerez à-propos à Da-

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miette pour en ramener à Rosette, le plus de schermes possibles, qui seront mises à la disposition du Citoyen De la Rue, pour être réparties suivant vos ordres.

La situation des malades, et leurs moyens de traitement ne sont pas encore tels que je ne me vois forcé à vous prier d'ordonner que les malades de votre escadre soient évacués sur Rosette. La difficulté d'avoir des matières a retardé l'expédition de la Madonna della N——: vous l'aurez un de ces jours-ci.

Salut et respect.

Le Roy.

P. S. Que de peines, Citoyen Amiral, pour la moindre chose! Le succès du Général en Chef, et de l'armée de la République, vont, je l'espère, éclaircir notre besogne.

Le Général Kleber vous réitère la demande de le faire avertir, si vous ne pouvez faire prendre les paquets par le premier bâtiment que vous enverrez en France. Le Général désire que nous envoions à Rosette un officier qui assure les transports d'eau pour Alexandrie, et l'acheminement des effets de la cavalerie pour le Nil.

Voici ce que je propose, d'après l'avis de l'estimable Guieu; choix dont je ne puis trop vous remercier.

1. Réunion des schermes de Damiette à Rosette, qui, avec celles d'Alexandrie feront le service de l'escadre et celui de ce port.

2. Les Macks transporteront au Caire les passagers et les effets de l'armée.

3. Les Caisses suppléeront les chaloupes, lorsque celles des tartanes ne suffiront pas.

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4. Employer d'ici à le Bequiere et à Rosette, tout ce qu'il sera possible, de tartanes à voiles latines, et à peu de tirant d'eau.

Salut, respect.

LE ROY.

TRANSLATION.

Alexandria, July 29.

LE ROY, *Commissary of the Marine, to Admiral* BRUEYS.

Citizen Admiral,

IN obedience to the orders of General Kleber, an agent for military supplies is about to set out for Rosetta. I shall furnish him with a letter for Citizen Jaubert, who will take measures for preventing the purchases made for the fleet, and those for the army, either here or at Rosetta, from occasioning a competition in the markets, which will be injurious to both.

The Board of Health has appointed Citizen Ferrière to the hospital at Aboukir. He will wait on you for orders.

Captain De la Rue writes to me in the most pressing manner, from Rosetta, for scherms (lighters). It is with the utmost difficulty that I have been able to collect five to send you—we are now engaged in looking out for a sixth.

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I presume that the capture of Cairo will facilitate our communications;—but, at all events, the supplying the fleet with provisions and water, the forwarding the baggage of the army, the correspondence with Rosetta, the necessity of going to procure water for Alexandria, which in a short time will be in want of it*—All these urgent calls induce me to propose to you to dis-

* "Proofs rise on proofs!" We mentioned in our observations on Savary's letter, (No. XII.) that the troops and transport vessels at Alexandria, would shortly experience a scarcity of provisions. We now find that a worse evil awaited them; for so long since as the beginning of August, they were obliged to draw their supplies of water from Rosetta! It is true that the rise of the Nile towards the end of that month, would probably furnish them with a precarious supply—but, on the other hand, as the canal was entirely in the possession of the Arabs, and as it never brought water enough to fill half the cisterns of the city, we may reasonably doubt whether they derived much advantage from it.

Add to this, that the usual population of the city, which was always (that is in modern times) scantily supplied with this indispensable article, is about eight thousand, the French say ten: now the garrison, the transports, and the ships of war there, must make an addition to it of twelve thousand at least: so that placing every thing in the most favourable light, it is impossible but that the want of water must by this time be most seriously felt; an evil the more alarming, as not a drop can now be procured from Rosetta.

We may be accused of being too sanguine, but as we reason from facts, and not from a vague reliance on we know not what resources, to be found in the good genius of Bonaparte, we shall be little affected by the charge—while we give it as our fixed opinion, that the shipping at Alexandria (putting all attacks upon it out of the question,) will soon be driven, by its wants, to attempt an escape which must be fatal to a great part of it, or to an unconditional surrender.

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patch one of the ships of war to Damietta, to collect as many scherms as possible, and bring them round to Rosetta, where they may be put under the command of Citizen De la Rue, and distributed according to your orders.

The situation of the sick, and the means of taking care of them, are not yet precisely such as to enable me to dispense with requesting you to order all the sick of your squadron to be put on shore in future at Rosetta. The difficulty of refitting at this port has, hitherto, retarded the sailing of the Madonna della N——; but you shall have her one of these days.

Health and respect.

LE ROY.

P. S. What an infinity of pains, Citizen Admiral, for the most trifling thing! The success of the Commander in Chief will soon, I hope, alleviate or remove all our difficulties.

General Kleber repeats his request to you, to let him know if you cannot contrive to send his packets by the first vessel which you dispatch to France. The General also desires you to send an officer to Rosetta, to overlook the taking on board the water for Alexandria, and the embarkation of the baggage of the cavalry on the Nile.

Here is the outline of a plan which I have drawn up for the purpose, by the assistance of the worthy Guien; a man whose friendship I owe to your recommendation—for which I can never be sufficiently thankful.

1. To convey all the scherms of Damietta to Rosetta,

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where, in conjunction with those at Alexandria, they shall be appropriated to the exclusive service of the squadron, and of this port.

2. The Macks shall serve as transports to convey the passengers to Cairo, as well as the baggage of the army.

3. The Caisses shall supply the place of sloops, whenever a sufficient number of tartanes cannot be found.

4. To employ between this place and Bequier, and between Bequier and Rosetta, as many tartanes as possible, with latin sails, and drawing little water.

Health and respect.

LE ROY.

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No. XXV.

Rosette, le 14 Thermidor, an 6.

DUVAL, *Commissaire des Guerres, au Citoyen* TRIPIER, *Agent des Hôpitaux Militaires.*

IL est étonnant, Citoyen, que depuis un mois que l'hôpital est établi à Rosette, vous l'ayez négligé à un point qui est absolument impardonnable.

Point de paillasses, point d'ustensiles, point de médicaments, point de linge pour le pansement, en un mot, manquant de tout, et les malades dans l'état le plus affligeant. Vous ne m'alléguerez pas, je crois, que vous êtes sans moyens ; vous avez d'abord tant par décade pour subvenir aux besoins du service, vous avez en second lieu, le bâtiment No. 47, qui est chargé de tout ce qui peut être nécessaire pour un hôpital de mille malades. Outre cela, il existe un magazin général établi à Alexandrie.

Je vous somme donc, Citoyen, sous votre responsabilité, de me faire passer dans le plus bref délai, tout ce qui peut être nécessaire, tant en effets qu'en médicamens, pour un hôpital de 400 malades.

J'aurai soin de rendre compte de votre négligence à l'Ordonnateur en Chef, ainsi qu'au Général en Chef, et surtout si vous tardez de me faire parvenir ce que je vous demande.

Salut.

DUVAL.

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TRANSLATION.*

Rosetta, August 1st.

DUVAL, *Commissary of War, to the Citizen* TRIPIER, *Agent for the Hospitals, &c.*

Is it not a wonderful thing, Citizen, that for near a month, during which the hospital has now been established at Rosetta, you should have neglected it to a degree which is absolutely unpardonable. No straw beds, no chamber utensils, no medicines, no linen for dressings; in a word, a total want of every thing, and the sick in a state of the utmost distress.

You will hardly allege, I fancy, that you are without means—for in the first place, you have so much a decade to supply all the wants of the service; and, in the second, you have the transport No. 47, which has on board necessaries of every kind for a hospital of more than a thousand sick; add to these, the general magazine which is established at Alexandria.

* This letter was written on the morning of the first of August, previous to the engagement; it furnishes, as the reader sees, another instance of the regard to truth which Bonaparte displays in his public dispatches. "We have not a man sick," says this veracious Chief, in which he is followed as usual by Berthier: and yet we find 400 perishing for want of necessaries at Rosetta! a place reached with little fatigue, entered without striking a blow, kept with no other precautions than a strict police, and supposed to be the healthiest spot in Egypt!

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I summon you then, Citizen, on your responsibility, to send me, without the smallest delay, every thing necessary, linen, &c. as well as medicines, for a hospital of four hundred sick.

I will take care to give an account of your negligence to the First Commissary; as well as to the Commander in Chief; and especially if you shew the least remissness in sending me what I write for.

Health.

DUVAL.

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No. XXVI.

Rosette, ce 17 Thermidor, an 6.

Je ne sais, ma chère bonne, si tu as reçu toutes mes lettres. Depuis mon départ de France, je t'ai écrit une fois de Bastia, deux fois de Malte, et une d'Alexandrie. Depuis 5 jours nous sommes ici, attendant une occasion pour aller au Caire, car il n'est pas sûr de remonter le Nil sans escorte. Dans notre traversée d'Alexandrie nous avons eu le bonheur d'échapper aux Anglois qui étoient dans ces parages.

Au moment où tu recevras cette lettre l'on saura déjà sans doute en France la défaite de notre escadre par les Anglois. Nous sommes tous ici dans la plus grande consternation. Je ne puis te donner aucun détail, parce que nous ne les connoissons pas encore d'une manière positive : ce qu'il y a malheureusement de trop certain, c'est que le superbe vaisseau l'Orient est sauté dans le combat. Placés sur une éminence qui dominoit la mer, nous avons été témoins de cet affreux spectacle. Le combat a duré plus de 24 heures : les Anglois ont dû beaucoup souffrir. Nous ignorons encore combien nous avons perdu de vaisseaux. J'ose espérer que les bruits sinistres qui se répandent ne seront pas confirmés. L'Amiral Brueys a été tué, ainsi que Ducheyla, et une foule d'autres braves.

Ce n'est pas dans un premier moment que l'on peut porter un jugement sur les causes de ce désastre affligeant

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pour tout bon Français ; il faut au contraire s'empresser de repousser la calomnie qui ne respecte ni le malheur ni la cendre des morts.

Quant à moi, j'écoute, j'observe, et ne crois pas qu'il soit sage de prononcer au milieu des passions. Nous partons demain pour le Caire ; nous serons les premiers qui annoncerons cette affligeante nouvelle à Bonaparte, qui, je l'espère, saura juger sa position, et supporter avec courage ce premier revers de la fortune. J'avoue que je ne suis pas aussi tranquille sur l'effet que produira cette nouvelle en France. Déjà je vois les ennemis de Bonaparte, de celui des Directeurs qui est son ami, sortir de leurs retraites, et agiter contre eux l'opinion publique.

Les services passés seront oubliés, chacun voudra se donner le mérite d'avoir prévu ce qui est arrivé. Les partis, les factions mal-éteintes, se ranimeront, et produiront encore dans notre malheureuse patrie de nouveaux déchiremens.

Quant à moi, ma chère amie, je suis ici, comme tu le sais, bien contre mon gré ; ma position devient chaque jour plus desagréable, puis que, separé de mon pays, de tout ce qui m'est cher, je ne prévois pas le moment où je pourrai m'en rapprocher ; cependant rien ne me fera trahir, et l'amitié et mes devoirs. Bonaparte éprouve une chance malheureuse, c'est pour moi une raison de plus de m'attacher plus fortement à lui, et d'unir mon sort au sien.

Ne crois pas cependant, que je devienne jamais le partisan d'aucune faction ; le passé m'a assez éclairé pour me rendre sage, et s'il pouvoit, ce que je suis bien loin de penser, se présenter un ambitieux qui voulut ou donner des fers à sa patrie, ou faire tourner les armes

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de ses défenseurs contre la liberté, alors on me verroit dans les rangs de ceux qui se présenteroient pour le combattre.

Tu vois, ma chère bonne, que je sais prendre mon parti, mais je te l'avoue bien franchement, je préférerois mille fois être avec toi et ta fille, retiré dans un coin de terre, loin de toutes les passions, de toutes les intrigues, et je t'assure que si j'ai le bonheur de retoucher le sol de mon pays, ce sera pour ne le quitter jamais. *Parmi les quarante mille François, qui sont ici, il n'y en a pas quatre qui pensent autrement.*

Rien de plus triste que la vie que nous menons ici! nous manquons de tout. Depuis cinq jours je n'ai pas fermé l'œil ; je suis couché sur le carreau ; les mouches, les punaises, les fourmis, les cousins, tous les insectes nous dévorent, et vingt fois chaque jour je regrette notre charmante *Chaumière*. Je t'en prie, ma chère amie, ne t'en défais pas.

Adieu, ma bonne Théresia, les larmes inondent mon papier. Les souvenirs les plus doux de ta bonté, de notre amour, l'espoir de te retrouver toujours aimable, toujours fidèle, d'embrasser ma chère fille, soutiennent seuls l'infortuné

TALLIEN.

Fais donner à ma mère de mes nouvelles.

Dans mon voyage j'ai fait une perte, M. Bellavoine le jour de notre départ de Malte s'est endormi dans quelque cabaret, et nous ne l'avons plus vu. J'ai prié Regnault de me le renvoyer s'il se retrouvoit.

Minerve est toujours avec moi, il se porte très-bien.

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TRANSLATION.

Rosetta, August 4th.

I KNOW not, my dear girl, if thou hast received any of my letters. Since I left France, I have written to thee, once from Bastia, twice from Malta, and once from Alexandria. We have been here near a week, waiting for an opportunity to proceed to Cairo; for it is dangerous to ascend the Nile without an escort. In our passage we had the good fortune to escape the English, who are still in these parts.

Before thou canst receive this letter, the defeat of our fleet by the English, will be known in France. We are all here in the most dreadful consternation: I can give thee no details, because we are not yet fully acquainted with them ourselves; what is, unhappily, too well known is, that that superb vessel the *L'Orient* blew up during the engagement. Placed on an eminence which overlooked the sea, we were witnesses of this horrible spectacle. The combat lasted more than twenty-four hours; the English must have suffered greatly. We are still ignorant how many vessels we have lost; and I venture to hope that the disastrous reports in circulation will not be confirmed. Admiral Brueys was killed, as was Ducheyla, and a number of other brave officers.

It is not in the first moments that we should form a judgment on the causes of a calamity so distressing to every good Frenchman. On the contrary, we should

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anxiously endeavour to check that calumny* which neither respects misfortune, nor the ashes of the dead.

With respect to myself, I hear and observe, but do not think it either safe or prudent, to pronounce amidst the tumult of the passions. We depart to-morrow for Cairo, and shall be the first to announce this afflicting news to Bonaparte; who I hope will know how to appreciate his situation, and bear this first reverse of fortune with firmness. I frankly declare that I am not quite so tranquil with regard to the effect this news may have in France; I see already the enemies of Bonaparte and of the Directort his friend, sallying forth from their retreats, and agitating the public opinion against them!

* We see by this that the unfortunate Brueys was already become the object of malevolence. It reflects some credit on Tallien, that he did not join in the cry so unjustly raised against him; and, indeed, though we have no great respect for Tallien, who has ever been a man of turbulence and blood, we cannot but confess, that this and the following letter, set not only his talents, but his social feelings, in a very amiable and respectable light.

The cant of patriotism, however, we may be allowed to discredit. We have heard the same language from every one of the numerous demagogues who have desolated France. The instant their power is established, their regard for their country knows no bounds: all farther change is deprecated, and, if "an ambitious chief should arise," they are as determined as Tallien himself, to protect her, that is, themselves, against him. They fail, however, and make way for others, who, with the same professions of patriotism, are destroyed in their turn,—"and thus the wheel of fortune goes around!"

Tallien's party is now at the head of affairs; this is an excellent reason for him to wish to be quiet: the "holy work of insurrection" loses all its sanctity when employed against the successful tyrants of the day; and they hate to be "plagued by the bloody instructions which they have taught."

† Barras.

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Past services will be forgotten, and every one will assume the merit of having foreseen what has happened. The parties, the half-extinguished factions, will re-invigorate their mutual rage, and our unhappy country will again be torn to pieces by new dissensions!

As for me, my love, I am here, as thou knowest, much against my will,—my situation every day becomes more and more irksome; since, separated from my country, from every thing that is dear to me, I cannot foresee the period when I may hope to rejoin them: nothing, however, shall induce me to betray my friendship and my duty. Bonaparte has experienced a reverse; this is an additional reason with me, for attaching myself more firmly to him, and for uniting his fate with my own.

Do not suppose from this, that I can ever become the partizan of any faction; the past has sufficiently enlightened me on the score of prudence; and if it should happen (which I am very far from supposing) that an ambitious chief should arise, aiming to enchain his country, or to turn the arms of its defenders against its liberty, you should then see me in the ranks of those who would stand forward to oppose him.

Thou seest, my girl, that I know how to choose my party; but I declare to thee, with the most perfect openness of heart, that I had rather a thousand times be with thee and thy daughter, in some retired corner of the world, far from all the passions and all the intrigues which agitate mankind;—and I assure thee, that if I ever have the happiness of placing my foot once more on the soil of my native land, nothing shall induce me to quit it again. Of the forty thousand Frenchmen who are here, there are not four whose determination on this head is not the same as my own.

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Nothing can be more melancholy than the life we lead here; we are in want of every thing. It is now five days since I closed my eyes. I lie on the bare floor; flies, bugs, ants, gnats, musquitoes, insects of every kind devour us alive; and twenty times a day I regret our charming *Chaumière*.* Do not, my love, dispose of it on any account.

Adieu, my best Theresia,† my paper is drenched with my tears. The delightful remembrance of thy goodness, and thy love, the hope of meeting thee again, still amiable, still faithful, and of embracing my dear daughter, are the sole support and stay of the unfortunate

TALLIEN.

Let my mother know that I am well.

I experienced a loss on our passage. The day we left Malta, Bellavoine fell asleep in some tavern, and never appeared afterwards. I desired Regnault to forward him to me, if he should happen to light on him. Minerva is still with me, and is very well.

* This is the name which Tallien has given to a house he possesses in the neighbourhood of Paris; and which, like the Thatched House in St. James's Street, is any thing but what it professes to be. *Chaumière* means a thatched hut or cottage.

† His wife, Theresia Cabarras.

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No. XXVII.

Rosette ce 17 Thermidor, an 6.

Au Citoyen BARRAS, *Membre du Directoire Exécutif de France, à Paris.*

DANS ma dernière datée d'Alexandrie je n'avois, cher Directeur, qu'à te parler des succès des armes Republicaines; aujourd'hui ma tâche est bien plus pénible. Le Directoire est sans doute déjà informé de l'issue malheureuse du combat que notre escadre a eu à soutenir le 14 de ce mois contre la flotte Anglaise.

Pendant plusieures heures nous eumes l'espoir d'être vainqueurs, mais lorsque le vaisseau l'Orient eût sauté, le désordre se mit dans notre escadre: de l'aveu même des Anglais, tous nos vaisseaux se sont bien battus; plusieurs bâtiments ennemis sont démâtés, mais notre escadre est presque entièrement détruite. Tu me connois assez pour être assuré que je ne me rendrai pas l'écho de la calomnie qui s'empresse d'accueillir les bruits les plus absurdes; j'observe et je m'abstiens quant à présent de prononcer.

Tout le monde est ici dans la consternation; je pars demain pour le Caire, porter cette nouvelle à Bonaparte. Elle l'affectera d'autant plus qu'il devoit moins s'y attendre: il trouvera sans doute en lui les moyens, sinon de reparer une perte aussi grande, au moins d'empêcher que ce désastre ne devienne funeste à l'armée qu'il commande.

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Quant à moi cet événement malheureux m'a rendu tout mon courage. J'ai senti que c'étoit dans ce moment où il falloit réunir tous ses efforts, pour triompher de tous les obstacles que le sort ou la malveillance nous susciteront.

Puisse cette désastreuse nouvelle ne pas produire en France de résultats malheureux. Je suis à mon particulier fort inquiet, mais je m'en rapporte beaucoup au Génie de la République, qui nous a toujours si bien servis.

Adieu, mon cher Barras, je t'écrirai du Caire, où je compte être rendu dans 4 jours.

TALLIEN.

J'ai vu ici ton cousin qui n'est pas bien portant. Le climat y contribue beaucoup : cependant il y a très-peu de malades dans l'armée, quoique la chaleur soit excessive et que souvent le soldat soit exposé aux privations de tout genre.

Des nouvelles arrivées d'Alexandrie assurent que deux vaisseaux, et deux frégates se sont échappés. Les Anglais sont toujours devant Abouquir : ils paroissent avoir extrêmement soufferts. Une lueur d'espérance reste encore ; puisse-t-elle se réaliser !

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TRANSLATION.

Rosetta, August 4th.

To Citizen BARRAS, *Member of the Executive Directory of France, at Paris.*

IN my last, dated from Alexandria, I had only, dear Director, to speak to thee of the success of the Republican arms. At present, I have a much more painful task. The Directory is, doubtless, informed ere this of the unfortunate issue of our naval engagement with the English.

During several hours we flattered ourselves with the hopes of being victors, but the blowing up of the *L'Orient*, threw the whole squadron into confusion. The English themselves allow that all our ships fought well;—many of their vessels are dismasted, but our squadron is almost totally destroyed. Thou art sufficiently acquainted with my disposition to be assured that I shall never become the echo of that calumny which is already anxiously busied in giving welcome to the most absurd rumours. I hear every thing, and say nothing—the affair is yet too recent to pronounce on it.

Consternation has overwhelmed us all. I set out to-morrow for Cairo, to carry the news to Bonaparte. It will shock him so much the more, as he had not the least idea of its happening. He will doubtless find resources in himself—if not to repair a loss of such

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magnitude, yet at least to prevent the disaster from becoming fatal to the army which he commands.

With respect to myself, this dreadful event has restored me all my courage. I feel that the moment is now come when it is indispensably necessary to unite all our efforts to enable us to triumph over the numerous obstacles which destiny, or malevolence, will not fail to fling in our way.

Pray Heaven this disastrous news produce no bad effect at Paris! I am, I confess, exceedingly uneasy about it—though I have still some confidence in the Genius of the Republic, who has hitherto so constantly befriended us.

Adieu, my dear Barras. I shall write to thee from Cairo, where I expect to be in four days.

TALLIEN.

I have seen thy cousin here—he is not well; the climate does not agree with him. There are not many sick in the army, however; although the heat is excessive, and the men are exposed to privations of every kind.

Letters from Alexandria assure us that two sail of the line, and two frigates, made their escape. The English are still off Abouquir: they appear to have suffered very much. A glimmering of hope still remains: may it not vanish like the rest!

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No. XXVIII.

Au Quartier général à Rosette, le 17 Thermidor, l'an 6.

Au Général KLEBER, *Général de Division, l'Aide de Camp* LOYER.

MON Général, j'arrivai hier matin à 7 heures sans le moindre événement: au lieu de suivre la flotte nous primes le large, ce qui nous réussit parfaitement: à deux heures de la nuit nous passâmes à la vue d'une frégate ennemie qui sûrement ne nous apperçut pas, ou ne daigna pas s'occuper de nous.

Le Général Menou n'étoit point encore informé de nos malheureux désastres: il m'a témoigné bien de l'inquiétude sur un convoi d'artillerie légère de 11 bouches à feu, avec tous leurs attirails, et d'une quantité prodigieuse de munitions de mousqueterie.

Il y avoit déjà longtems que ce convoi avoit été expédié pour l'armée, il n'avoit pu passer la barre du Nil, il avoit dû aller mouiller à Abouquir, où des germes devoient le décharger. De toute cette artillerie il n'a été débarqué que 2 pieces de huit qui sont ici. Le reste est exposé à être enlevé des ennemis, s'ils n'en sont déjà maîtres. Le Citoyen Dumanoir pourroit à cet égard vous donner quelques renseignements: avec quelques troupes, on pourroit peut-être sauver ce convoi si précieux pour l'armée.

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Je ne sais par quel motif l'Amiral Brueys relacha le Cherif la veille de l'arrivée de l'escadre Anglaise. J'ai cru que c'étoit par rapport à cet événement. Point du tout, il a été envoyé ici, il a même promené quelques heures dans la ville pendant l'absence du Général Menou, qui à son retour le fit mettre à bord d'un aviso où il fut consigné. Je suis bien fâché que vous ne m'ayiez pas remis tout votre correspondance, pour mettre sous les yeux du Général en Chef, la conduite plus que suspecte de ce Cherif. Au reste les raisons principales qui vous ont déterminé à l'éloigner d'Alexandrie me sont connues, et je les rendrai au Général Bonaparte.

Les communications du Nil ne sont point encore libres. Le Général Menou fait armer un aviso pour mon départ. Je serois parti aujourd'hui sans des nouvelles de l'armée qui lui étoient annoncées, et qui lui sont arrivées. Un Adjudant-Général venant du Caire arrive à l'instant, il est porteur du détail officiel de la marche de notre armée et de ses combats, d'ordres de faire rejoindre quelques dépôts et de systêmes d'organisation pour le pays. Du reste l'armée est tranquille— votre division est à Boulac. Le chef de bataillon Goyné de la 25e m'a dit qu'elle n'étoit pas très-contente de votre r - - - - et qu'elle regrettoit beaucoup que vous n'ayiez pas été à sa tête.

Les divisions Desaix et Bon sont les seules qui aient agi. D'après le rapport que vous avez dans ce paquet nous avons fort peu souffert.

Le Général Menou est en traité de pacification et même d'alliance avec quelques Chefs de tribus. Il espère convertir à lui la tribu qui a si mal reçu le Général Damas. Un des Sous-chefs a déjà fait la paix, on lui assigne un lieu de campement. Il vient prendre les

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ordres du Général ; puissent ces conversions s'augmenter !

Demain matin je pars avec le Cherif et beaucoup de Français qui sont ici. Il nous faut 4 jours pour arriver au Caire, autant et peut-être plus pour le retour à cause des vents. Ne comptez donc sur moi, mon Général, que dans 10 à 12 jours. Je ferai toute diligence possible pour vous revoir promptement. J'espère vous apporter de bonnes nouvelles, qui vous tireront d'A . . . . . et de ses déserts, et vous rameneront sur les rives du Nil, les Champs Elisées de l'Egypte.

Votre dévoué Aide de Camp,

LOYER.

Le rapport officiel de la marine sur la malheureuse journée du 14, vient d'être remis au Général Menou. Je vais l'emporter avec des dépêches.

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TRANSLATION.

Head Quarters, Rosetta, Aug. 4.

Aid-de-Camp LOYER, *to Citizen* KLEBER, *General of Division.*

My General,

I ARRIVED here yesterday morning at 7 o'clock, without any accident: instead of following the rest of the flotilla, we took a good offing—which answered extremely well. About two in the morning we were in sight of an English frigate,* who certainly did not perceive us, or, at least, did not condescend to take any notice of us.

General Menou had not yet been informed of our unhappy disasters. He expressed a great deal of uneasiness to me for the fate of a convoy of light artillery, consisting of 11 pieces, with carriages, sponges, &c. and a prodigious quantity of musquet cartridges.

Many days have already elapsed since this convoy was dispatched from Alexandria. Not being able to get over the bar of the Nile, it had come to anchor at Aboukir, where every thing was to be put on board the light vessels of the country. Nothing, however, has yet been disembarked of all this cannon, ammunition, &c. except two eight-pounders. The rest is exposed to

* This is incorrect. Lord Nelson had no frigate with him at this time; nor, indeed, till two or three days afterwards.

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the seizure of the enemy, if it is not already in their possession. Citizen Dumanoir can give you some information on this subject: a detachment of troops may not yet be too late, perhaps, to preserve a convoy so necessary to the service.

I cannot conceive what motive could induce Admiral Brueys to set the Cheriff* at liberty, the night of the engagement. I took it for granted that he had been some how or other released by that event—but no such thing: he was *sent* here, I find, and had been walking about the town for several hours, during the absence of

* Of this Cheriff we find the following account in a letter from Alexandria. "Bonaparte endeavoured to gain the confidence and friendship of the Cheriff; he decorated him with the tri-coloured scarf, and in every instance paid him the most distinguished attention. The Cheriff, laying his hand on his breast, took Allah to witness that he would be grateful. But General Kleber soon found that the traitor maintained a secret correspondence with the Mameloucs. He therefore ordered him into confinement on board the L'Orient; from whence he was put on shore a little before the catastrophe."

The meaning of all this is—that Brueys, who was not in the secret, thought the innocence of this man a sufficient reason for setting him at liberty. We sincerely wish that the rest—(the children of the most respectable families, who were barbarously torn from their parents, as hostages, by the unfeeling Bonaparte —"Bonaparte exigea pour otâges, les enfans les plus apparens "du pays"—is the expression of the letter)—may have been dismissed at the same time: but we fear they all perished in the explosion of the L'Orient.

For the rest; this letter confirms the account of the horrid massacre mentioned by Boyer (No. XXII.) "Tout ce qui resistoit "a mordu la poussiere, et nos soldats brûlant de venger la mort "de leurs compagnons d'armes, ONT IMPITOYABLEMENT PASSE "AU FIL DE L'EPEE, LES RESTES DES TURCS QUI S'ETOIENT "REFUGIES DANS UNE MOSQUEE."

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General Menou: on his return, however, the General sent him on board an advice boat, where he remains in custody. I am very sorry that you did not furnish me with the whole of your correspondence, that I might have laid before the Commander in Chief, the more than suspicious conduct of this Cheriff. As I am acquainted, however, with the principal reasons which induced you to remove him from Alexandria, I will mention them to General Bonaparte.

Our communications by the Nile are not yet quite safe. General Menou is arming an advice boat to take me to Cairo. I should have set out to day, but for the news from the army which has just reached him. An Adjutant General is this moment arrived from Cairo: he brings an official detail of the march of our army, and of the combats it has sustained; orders to some of the troops here to join without delay, and systems of organization for the country. For the rest, all is tranquil. Your division is at Boulac. The chief of battalion, Goyné of the 25th, tells me that it is far from being pleased with your * r - - -, and that it regrets exceedingly that you are not at its head.

The divisions of Desaix and Bon are the only ones that seem to have been in action. You see from the dispatches that our loss is trifling.

General Menou is about a treaty of pacification, and even of alliance with some of the Chiefs of the tribes. He has hopes of bringing over the tribe from which General Damas suffered so much. One of the subordinate chiefs has already made peace, and had a place of

* Representative. He means Dugua.—See Damas's letter to Kleber, p. 78.

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encampment assigned him. He has just been here to know the General's pleasure—would to Heaven these conversions may increase!*

To-morrow morning I shall set out with the Cheriff, and a great number of our people, who are quartered here. It will take us four days to reach Cairo, and perhaps as many to return, on account of the winds. Do not, therefore, look for me, my dear General, in less than ten or twelve days.† I will use all possible diligence to rejoin you speedily. I hope to be the bearer of good news—news which will remove you from Alexandria

* Drowning men will catch at straws. We do not, therefore, wonder to see the sensible Loyer flattering himself with the hopes of advantages to be derived from the "conversions" of the Arabs, notwithstanding he must have seen their fallaciousness. Bonaparte had some time before, not only converted, but even associated thousands of them to his army; so, at least, he says, and so all France repeats after him. And what were the important advantages derived from it? Hatred, and immediate desertion.—In short, (for we are unwilling to dwell on a subject so obvious to every man of common information) every hope of maintaining an alliance with such a people, is more absurd than the day-dreams of a madman.

† Loyer did not come back quite so soon as he expected. It took him eleven days, only to reach Bonaparte, whom he met returning from an unsuccessful attempt to rob the caravan: for this we can confidently assure our readers, was the true purport of the General's boasted expedition towards Syria.

He had with him, as he says himself, most of the staff officers, with the divisions of Regnier, Lannes, and Dugua.—All these, however, were completely baffled, by the gallantry and skill of Ibrahim Bey, and finally compelled to retreat with great loss towards Cairo, without accomplishing any part of their object! One regiment of grenadiers was nearly cut to pieces.—So much for the conquest of Syria, so triumphantly announced, and so gravely commented upon in the opposition papers!

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and its deserts, to the banks of the Nile—the Elysium of Egypt.

Your devoted Aid-de-Camp,

LOYER.

The official dispatches of the marine on the calamitous event of the 2d, have just been remitted to General Menou. I shall take them with me.

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No. XXIX.

Rosette, le 17 Thermidor.

J. MENOU, *Général de Division, au Général* KLEBER.

QUEL malheur, mon cher Général, que celui arrivé à notre armée navale! Il est affreux : mais il faut prendre courage, et être encore plus grand que le malheur.

Je ferai partir demain matin, votre Aide-de-Camp, et le Commissaire sur un aviso pour le Caire. Je n'ai point eu de détails d'Aboukir : n'ayant pas de cavalerie, je n'ai pû envoyer personne par la plaine, et le bogatsch est si mauvais, qu'il est d'une difficulté extrême à passer.

Il me reste encore quelques espérances que tout n'est pas perdu. Si vous avez quelques nouvelles des tartanes et autres bâtiments qui portoient de l'artillerie et des cartouches, ainsi que d'autres effets nécessaires à l'armée, je vous prie de me les faire connoître ; car nous en avons un extrême besoin ici, et au Caire.

Si on pouvoit aussi, sans danger, envoyer ici les équipages restés à Alexandrie, cela seroit extrêmement utile pour les faire passer au quartier général.

Au total, mon cher Général, donnez-moi de vos nouvelles, et de tout ce qui vous intéresse, ainsi que des débris de notre armée. J'envoie à Alexandrie un courier du Général en Chef : il vous porte des dépêches. Ici tout est assez tranquille ; mais il faut veiller !

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J'ai fait arrêter ici Coraïm, qui avoit été relâché de dessus l'Orient. Je le ferai partir demain pour le Caire, avec bonne et sûre escorte. Est-il vrai que vous m'envoyez Demui? Sa troupe me seroit bien utile, si elle ne vous l'est pas. Salut et amitié franche, mon cher Général. De vos nouvelles; de vos nouvelles.

J. MENOU.

TRANSLATION.

Rosetta, August 4th.

J. MENOU,* *General of Division, to General* KLEBER.

WHAT a calamity, my dear General, has befallen our fleet! It is dreadful in the extreme: but we must take heart, and rise superior to our misfortunes!

I shall dispatch your Aide-de-Camp † to-morrow morning, together with the Commissary, in an advice-boat to Cairo. I have had no details from Aboukir.‡

* Menou was wounded at the attack on Alexandria, and left in consequence of it, with the command of Rosetta. The French reckon him one of their best officers.

† Loyer. See the preceding letter.

‡ They must have arrived soon after this letter was finished: for Loyer's, which is dated the same day, says, they had then reached him, and that he was to take them with him to Bonaparte.

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Not having any cavalry with me, I cannot dispatch a messenger over land; and the surf at the mouth of the river is so violent, that it is with the utmost difficulty and danger we can pass it.*

I have still some faint hopes that all is not lost. If you have any intelligence of the tartanes, and other vessels, which had on board the artillery, cartridges, and other necessaries of the army, I beg you to communicate it to me; for we are in extreme want of them all here, and at Cairo.

If you could also, without risk, send round the baggage of the army, it would be of the greatest consequence, as it might then be forwarded to head quarters.

Finally, my dear General, let me hear from you—I am axious to know every circumstance relative, as well to you, as to the ruins of our fleet. I am about to send you a courier, which is just arrived from the Commander in Chief; he has dispatches for you. Every thing is tolerably tranquil here; but we are obliged to keep a good look out!

I have again arrested Coraïm,† who had been released on board the L'Orient, and sent on shore. I shall send him to Cairo to-morrow under a strong escort. Is it

* Menou had a considerable number of horse at Rosetta, and yet he did not think them sufficient to escort a courier to the fort of Aboukir, garrisoned by Frenchmen, and not more than eight or ten miles from the town! Can our readers wish for a more convincing proof of the state of security in which the French live in Egypt, or of the complete possession which they so truly declare in their official papers, they now have of the country?

† The Cheriff mentioned in Loyer's letter.

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true that you are thinking of sending me Demui? His troop will be extremely serviceable to me, if you have no occasion for it at Alexandria. Health and friendship, my dear General. Let me hear from you; for God's sake, let me hear from you.

J. MENOU.

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No. XXX.

Rosette en Egypte, le 17 Thermidor, an 6.

E. POUSSIELGUE, *Contrôleur des Dépenses de l'Armée d'Orient, et Administrateur Général des Finances.*

NOUS venons, ma bonne amie, d'être témoins du plus sanglant et du plus malheureux combat naval qui se soit donné depuis bien des siècles. Nous n'en savons pas encore toutes les circonstances, mais celles que nous connoissons sont affreuses.

L'escadre Françoise composée de 13 vaisseaux de ligne, dont un à trois ponts de 120 canons, et 3 de 80, étoit mouillée et embossée dans la mauvaise Baye d'Aboukir, ou Canope, la seule qui existe sur la côte d'Egypte. Depuis 8 jours il se présentoit souvent des vaisseaux et frégates Anglois qui venoient connoître la position de notre escadre, ensorte qu'elle s'attendoit à tout moment à être attaquée. De Rosette à Aboukir il n'y a en ligne droite que 4 lieues et demie; des hauteurs de Rosette nous distinguions parfaitement notre escadre. Le 14 de ce mois, à 5½ heures du soir, nous entendimes des coups de canon; c'étoit le commencement du combat. Nous montâmes sur les terrasses des plus hautes maisons, et sur les petites éminences, et nous distinguames parfaitement 10 vaisseaux Anglois; les autres ne s'apperçevoient pas. La canonnade fut très-vive jusqu'à 9½ heures du soir, que nous apperçumes à la faveur de la

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nuit une très-grande lumière, qui nous annonça qu'un vaisseau brûloit. Alors le feu du canon redoubla de vîtesse ; à 10 heures le vaisseau qui brûloit sauta avec un bruit épouvantable, et qui s'entendit à Rosette comme on entendit à Paris l'explosion de Grenelle. A cet accident succéda une nuit profonde et un silence parfait pendant dix minutes. Entre la vue et l'ouie de l'explosion il se passa pour nous deux minutes ; le feu reprit et dura sans interruption jusqu'à trois heures du matin ; il cessa presqu'entièrement jusqu'à 5 heures, qu'il reprit avec plus de vivacité que jamais. Je me portai sur une tour qui est à une portée de canon de Rosette, et qu'on appelle *Aboul Mandour*, de là je vis très-distinctement la bataille. A 8 heures du matin j'apperçus un vaisseau qui brûloit ; au bout d'une demi-heure je vis tout-à-coup sauter en l'air un autre vaisseau qui ne brûloit pas auparavant ; son explosion fut comme celle de la veille. Le vaisseau qui brûloit s'éloignoit de la côte, le feu diminua insensiblement, et nous présumons qu'on est parvenu à l'éteindre.

Pendant ce tems-là les canonnades redoubloient : un gros vaisseau démâté de ses trois mâts etoit échoué à la côte ; on en voyoit d'autres parmi les escadres qui étoient pareillement démâtés entièrement ; mais les deux escadres sembloient s'être mêlées, et nous ne pouvions distinguer les Anglois des François, ni savoir de quel côté étoit l'avantage. Le feu a conservé toute sa vivacité jusqu'à près de 2 heures après-midi du 15 ; à cette heure nous avons vu deux vaisseaux de ligne et deux frégates mettre toutes leurs voiles au vent, et prendre la route de l'Est ; nous leur reconnûmes à tous 4 le pavillon François ; aucun autre vaisseau ne bougea, et le feu cessa.

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Vers 6 heures du soir, je retournai à la tour d'Aboul-Mandour pour reconnoître la position des escadres ; elle étoit la même qu'à 2 heures. Les quatre vaisseaux à la voile étoient devant l'embouchure du Nil. Nous ne savions que conjecturer ; 24 heures s'étoient écoulées sans que personne fut venu nous donner des détails, et nous étions dans l'impossibilité de nous en procurer ; par terre à cause des Arabes qui étoient rassemblés entre Rosette et Aboukir ; par mer à cause de la difficulté de sortir de l'embouchure du Nil au Bogasse.

Tu peux juger de notre impatience, de notre perplexité. Nous tirions un mauvais augure de ce silence. Il fallut encore passer dans cette incertitude la nuit du 15 au 16. Enfin le 16 au matin, un bateau parti dans la nuit d'Alexandrie, nous donna quelques détails mais fâcheux ; il nous dit que des officiers de l'escadre Française qui s'étoient sauvés à Alexandrie dans une chaloupe, avoient rapporté que dès le commencement du combat l'Amiral Brueys avoit reçu trois blessures graves, une à la tête et deux au corps, qu'il voulut rester à sa place sur le banc de quart, et qu'un quatrième coup de canon l'emporta par le milieu du corps. Que le Capitaine de Pavillon Casabianca avoit au même moment été emporté d'un coup de canon. Qu'on s'apperçut alors que le feu étoit au vaisseau, qu'on n'avoit pu parvenir à l'éteindre, et qu'enfin il avoit sauté à 10 heures du soir. Ils ajoutoient que notre escadre étoit abîmée et perdue, que quatre vaisseaux s'étoient sauvés ; mais que le reste étoit perdu.

Je retournai à la tour. Je retrouvai les choses absolument dans le même état que la veille, elles étoient telles encore hier soir et ce matin.

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Voici comme le tout se présentoit à nos yeux en partant de la tour d'Aboukir, vue à gauche, et suivant à droite de l'horizon.

Le 1er vaisseau n'a point de mât, et porte pavillon Anglois.

Le 2e et le 3e sont en bon état ; on n'en distingue pas pas le pavillon. Le 4e a perdu un mât.

Le 5e en bon état, et porte pavillon Anglois.

Le 6e a perdu son mât de hune, ce matin on y élévoit un fock et une voile quarrée.

Le 7e est sans mât de perroquet.

Le 8e est rasé.

Le 9e est rasé, il lui reste son mât de beaupré.

Le 10e démâté de ses trois mâts, ce matin on attachoit une voile au mât de beaupré.

Les 11e, 12e, et 13e formoient une espèce de grouppe, on ne comptoit que 7 mâts pour ces trois vaisseaux.

Le 14e n'a que son mât de mizaine.

Le 15e a perdu ses perroquets de mizaine et d'artimon.

Le 16e est entièrement rasé.

Le 17e a perdu son perroquet d'artimon.

Le 18e n'a que le mât de mizaine.

Les 19e, 20e, et le 21e forment un grouppe où l'on ne voit que quatre mâts, et point de perroquets.

Le 22e est entièrement rasé et échoué ; il a pavillon Anglois, on travaille à le remettre à flot, et à le mâter de petits mâts.

Le 23e est en bon état, il avoit pavillon Anglois.

Le 24e est en bon état.

Voilà tout ce que j'ai pu distinguer. Il en résulte que les Anglois, quoiqu'ils ayent eu l'avantage, ont été extrêmement mal-traités, puisqu'ils n'ont pu poursuivre ceux de nos vaisseaux qui s'en sont allés le 15.

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Depuis deux jours tous ces vaisseaux sont dans l'inaction, et semblent anéantis.

Ce matin il nous est venu des nouvelles d'Alexandrie qui confirment nos pertes. Le Contre Amiral Decrès a été tué, ainsi que le Vice-Amiral Blanquet Duchaila.

Le Tonnant est celui qui s'est battu le dernier. Dupetit Thouars, qui le commandoit, a eu les deux jambes emportées d'un coup de canon. Les vaisseaux sauvés sont le Guillaume Tell, le ------, les frégates la Diane et la Justice. On dit c'est l'Artémise qui a sauté avant hier matin.

Il reste encore bien des choses à apprendre de ce combat. On dit que l'Amiral Anglois a envoyé un parlementaire à Alexandrie, demander qu'on reçût et qu'on soignât ses blessés qui montent à 1500. Il nous rend tous nos prisonniers. J'ignore ce qu'on décidera.

Vous recevrez en France des relations officielles de nous et des Anglois, J'ignore ce qu'elles diront ; mais tu peux compter sur ce que je t'écris, parce que j'ai *vû*.

Communique ma lettre à la Citoyenne Corancez. Son fils se dispense par cette raison de lui donner ces détails; d'ailleurs je l'occupe à autre chose. Déjà il a écrit six lettres, et n'en a reçu aucune. Je n'ai point de nouvelles du Citoyen Mony, que j'ai nommé Agent à Démanhour. Derancés qui avoit été malade, est bien remis, il est avec moi. Martin se porte très-bien, et n'a pas reçu un mot de sa famille. J'ai été le seul heureux, puisque j'ai eu trois lettres de toi depuis que je suis en Egypte. Il s'en est sûrement perdu plusieurs, puisque les Anglois nous ont pris beaucoup de couriers.

J'ai fait faire ici mon portrait dessiné en profil par un habile artiste, le Citoyen Denon. On le trouve très-ressemblant ; mais nous avons tant d'Anglois autour de

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nous que je n'ôse te l'envoyer, crainte qu'il aille en Angletterre, ou au fond de la mer. Je voudrois bien te le porter moi-même. Sois sûre qu'aussitôt que j'en aurai la permission, que je ne cesserai de solliciter, je partirai. Il n'y a pas de fortune qui puisse me retenir. Je consentirois à arriver auprès de toi nud comme la main.

Du reste je me porte à merveille. Demain matin je pars pour le Caire dans un joli bâtiment, avec le trésor et le Payeur Général, deux avisos, 250 hommes d'escorte, et plus de 40 passagers. J'emporte un superbe cheval Arabe, dont un Cheick m'a fait présent ici. Nous allons par le Nil. Adieu, ma bonne petite, aime-moi toujours bien, et rappelle-moi au souvenir de tous nos amis. Je t'embrasse ainsi que mes enfans, &c.

POUSSIELGUE.

TRANSLATION.

Rosetta, August 4th.

E. POUSSIELGUE,* *Controller of the Expences of the Army of the East, and Administrator General of the Finances.*

WE have just been witnesses, my dear girl, of the most bloody and unfortunate naval action that has been

* This man was originally a merchant of Marseilles; but having a talent for intrigue, he was selected by the Directory, who had frequently profited by his ingenuity, to corrupt and revolutionize the knights of Malta. How well he succeeded, the recent

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fought for many ages. We do not yet know all the circumstances of it, but those that we do know, are horrible.

The French fleet, composed of thirteen sail of the line, of which one was a three decker of 120 guns, and three of 80, was moored in the incommodious bay of Aboukir; the only station to be found on the coast of Egypt. For the last week several English frigates had frequently reconnoitred the position of our fleet; so that it was in constant expectation of being attacked. From Aboukir to Rosetta, in a straight line, is about ten miles; so that from the heights of this latter place our ships were plainly discernible.

The 1st of this month, at half after five in the evening, we heard the report of several guns: this was the commencement of the action. We immediately got upon the roofs of the highest houses, and on the little eminences, and clearly distinguished ten English vessels; the others were not yet in sight. The firing was

surrender of that island declares but too plainly. He had, however, made himself too obnoxious to the Maltese to think of remaining there, and Bonaparte who, as the Cardinal Antici somewhere observes, "knows how to distinguish," advanced him, in return for his eminent services, to the lucrative post in which we now find him.

He is evidently a very able man; and his letter which we now lay before the reader, is one of the most surprising instances of accuracy of observation, and fidelity of description, that we ever remember to have met with. It has been shewn to many of our officers who were in the engagement; and they unanimously concur in regarding it as a very extraordinary production.

It should be mentioned to the farther credit of Poussielgue that he could at no time have been nearer than seven miles to the scenes which he so correctly and minutely describes.

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exceedingly brisk till a quarter after nine, when we perceived, by favour of the night, a prodigious light, which sufficiently announced to us, that some vessel was in flames—at this moment the fire was brisker than ever. At ten o'clock, the vessel which was burning, blew up with a most tremendous noise, which was heard as plainly at Rosetta, as the explosion of Grenelle at Paris. This accident was succeeded by a pitchy darkness, and a most profound silence, which continued for about ten minutes. The time that elapsed between our seeing and hearing the explosion was two minutes. The firing now began again, and continued, without intermission, till three in the morning: it then grew very faint till five, when it recommenced with more fury than ever.

I now took my stand on a tower called Aboul-Mandour, about a mile from Rosetta, from whence I had a clear and distinct view of the whole engagement. At eight in the morning, I perceived a vessel on fire; about half an hour after, another, which did not appear to me to have been on fire before, suddenly blew up; its explosion was as dreadful as that of the preceding evening. The vessel which was burning removed further from the shore, the flames insensibly diminished, and it appeared to us, that the crew had succeeded in extinguishing them altogether.

During this time, the contest raged with redoubled fury: a large vessel, with all her masts carried away, got on shore. Several others appeared totally dismasted; but the two fleets were so intermixed, that we could not distinguish whether they were French or English; nor possibly make out which side had the advantage. The firing continued as warm as ever, till two in the afternoon of the 2d; at which period, two sail of

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the line, and two frigates, cut their cables, and make sail to the eastward with all the canvas they could carry. These vessels we clearly distinguished by their colours to be French. No other vessel stirred, and the firing ceased.

About six in the evening I returned to the tower of Aboul-Mandour, to reconnoitre the position of the two squadrons: it was the same as when I left it. The four vessels under weigh were off the mouth of the Nile. We knew not what to think of it. Twenty-four hours were past, and not a soul arrived to give us any information. To procure any ourselves was impossible; by land, on account of the Arabs, who were assembled between Rosetta and Aboukir; and by sea, on account of the difficulty of passing the bar, and the swell at the mouth of the Nile.

Thou may'st judge of our impatience and perplexity. We drew a very unfavourable augury from this silence: we were compelled, however, to remain in this state of uncertainty, all the night of the 2d. At length, on the morning of the 3d, a boat,* which had slipped out in the night from Alexandria, brought us some details; but of a most melancholy nature. They told us that some officers of the French fleet, who had escaped in a shallop to Alexandria, had reported that soon after the commencement of the action, Admiral Brueys had received three dangerous wounds; one on the head, and two in the body; that he still persisted in remaining on the quarter-deck; and that a fourth shot had cut him in two; that his first Captain Casa-Bianca, had been

* That which brought General Loyer. See his letter, No. XXVIII.

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killed at the same instant, by a cannon ball; that the ship was just then perceived to be on fire; that they could not succeed in putting it out; and that she had finally blown up about ten in the evening. They added, that our squadron was defeated and destroyed; that four vessels only had escaped; and that the rest were in the enemy's hands.

I returned to the tower, and found every thing precisely as it was the evening before. It was the same yesterday, and is still so this morning.

I now present you with an exact view of the whole scene, as it appeared to us: keeping the tower of Aboukir to the left, and directing our eyes along the horizon, to the right.

The 1st vessel dismasted, carries English colours.

The 2d and 3d in a good condition, colours not to be distinguished. The 4th has lost a mast.

The 5th in good condition; has English colours.

The 6th has lost a top-mast; this morning she hoisted a gib and square sail.

The 7th has lost all her top-gallant masts.

The 8th has all her masts by the board.

The 9th ditto; except her bowsprit, which is standing.

The 10th dismasted; this morning a sail was bent to her bowsprit.

The 11th, 12th, and 13th, form a kind of groupe, we can only see that the three vessels have but seven masts between them.

The 14th has only her mizen mast.

The 15th has lost her mizen-top, and top-gallant masts.

The 16th has all her masts by the board.

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The 17th has lost her mizen top-gallant.

The 18th has lost her fore and main-masts

The 19th, 20th, and 21st, form a groupe, with only four masts standing—all the top-masts gone.

The 22d entirely dismasted, and on shore—has English colours; they are endeavouring to get her off, and rig her out with jury masts.

The 23d in good condition; has English colours.

The 24th ditto. This is all that I could distinguish.

The result is, that though the English are victorious, they have been very roughly handled: this is clear, from their not being able to follow the four vessels that made off on the 2d.

For two days, all these vessels have remained inactive; they lie like logs in the water.

This morning intelligence is arrived from Alexandria, which confirms our losses. Rear Admiral Decrès is killed, as well Ducheyla. The Tonnant was the last ship that struck. Du Petit Thouars who commanded her, had both his legs carried away by a cannon ball. The vessels that escaped are the Guillaume Tell and the - - - - -; the frigates are the Diana and the Justice. They say that it was the Artémise which blew up the morning before yesterday.

There is much still to be learned respecting this engagement. The English Admiral, they tell us, has sent a flag of truce to Alexandria, with a request that they would receive and take care of the wounded, which amount to 1500. He also proposes to send the prisoners on shore. I have not heard what answer was returned.

You will have in France the official relation of this

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event from both parties. I know not what they may say; but thou mayest rely with the utmost confidence on what I have written, because it is what I *saw*.

Communicate my letter to the female Citizen Corancez—this will save her son the trouble of writing; besides, I have set him about something else. He has already written six letters, and has not received an answer to any of them. I have heard nothing of Citizen Mony, whom I have appointed Agent at Demanhour. Dérancés, who has been ill, is quite recovered; he is with me. Martin is well, he has not received a single line from his family. I am the only fortunate person, since I have received three letters from thee since I have been in Egypt; many others have undoubtedly miscarried, as the English have taken several of our couriers.

I have had my portrait painted in profile since I have been here, by Citizen Denou, a skilful artist. They tell me that it is extremely like—but we have so many English about us, that I dare not send it, for fear it should find its way to England, or to the bottom of the sea. How happy should I be to bring it to thee myself! Be assured that the moment I can obtain my discharge, which I solicit night and day, I will quit this country. No fortune in the world shall keep me here. I would consent with pleasure to return to thee, as naked as I was born.

For the rest, my health is extremely good. I set out for Cairo to-morrow morning, in a handsome passage-boat, with the military chest, the Paymaster-general, two advice-boats, an escort of 250 men, and more than 40 passengers. I take with me a fine Arabian horse,

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which a Cheik here made me a present of. We go by the Nile.

Adieu, my dear little girl, love me always well, and remember me to all our friends. I embrace thee tenderly, as well as my children.

POUSSIELGUE.

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No. XXXI.

Alexandrie, 5 Fructidor.

Le Contre Amiral GANTEAUME, *au Général* BRUIX, *Ministre de la Marine et des Colonies.*

Citoyen Ministre,

OBLIGE' de vous rendre compte du plus sinistre des événemens, c'est avec une douleur amère que je m'acquitte de ce triste devoir.

Onze vaisseaux pris, brlûés, et perdus pour la France, nos bons officiers tués, ou blessés, les côtes de notre nouvelle colonie exposés à l'invasion de l'ennemi, tels sont les affreux résultats d'un combat naval qui a eu lieu dans le nuit du 14 du mois dernier, entre l'armée Françoise et celle Britannique aux ordres du Contre Amiral Nelson.

Par l'habitude que vous avez-eu, Citoyen Ministre, dans nos ports, durant le cours de cette guerre, il vous sera sans doute facile de juger si dans un escadre armée aussi à la hâte que le notre, nous pouvions esperer une bonne composition d'equipage, et trouver dans des hommes, rassemblés au hazard presqu'au moment du départ, des Matelots et canonniers habiles et expérimentés. La belle saison cependant, l'attention et les soins des chefs, quelque hazards peut-être, avoient tellement secondé cette escadre, qu'elle étoit parvenue,

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avec son convoi, sans perte ni accident, sur les côtes d'Egypte.

L'Amiral vous aura sans doute déjà rendu compte qu'à notre arrivée à Alexandrie, nous avions appris qu'une escadre Angloise de 14 vaisseaux y avoit paru trois jours avant nous. Peut-être étoit-il convenable de quitter une telle côte aussitôt que la descente avoit eu lieu ; mais attendant les ordres du Général en Chef, la présence de notre escadre devant donner une force d'opinion incalculable à l'armée de terre, l'Amiral crut ne devoir abandonner ces lieux, et prendre au contraire, une position stable au mouillage de Bequiers.

Cette rade par sa proximité avec Rosette, lui offroit les moyens de recevoir les approvisionnemens dont l'escadre avoit besoin, et de renouveller, quoiqu'avec des peines et risques infinies, une partie de l'eau que l'escadre consommoit journalièrement. Une ligne d'embossage fut donc malheureusement déterminé dans un lieu ouvert, et que la terre ne pouvoit protéger.

Des funestes avis reçus par des neutres, annonçoient le retour de l'escadre ennemi : elle a été vue sur l'Isle de Candie, faisant route dans l'Ouest. La manœuvre de cette escadre, qui, supérieure à la notre, ne nous avoit point attendu devant Alexandrie, qui retournoit dans l'Ouest, quand nous exécutions nos opérations de descente, qu'elle auroit peu facilement contrarier, établit malheureusement l'idée qu'elle n'avoit pas ordre de nous attaquer, et une trop grande et funeste sécurité.

Le 2 Thermidor, cependant, deux frégates ennemies étoient venues nous observer, et le 14 à deux heures du soir, l'escadre ennemi fut à la vue de la notre. Quatorze vaisseaux et deux bricks la composoient. Le vent

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étoit au Nord, joli fraix. Elle s'avance sous toutes ses voiles vers le mouillage de l'armée, et annonce le dessein de nous attaquer.

Les mesures que prit l'Amiral en cette occasion, la résolution de combattre à l'ancre, et enfin, les résultats de cette horrible affaire, sont détaillés dans un précis des faits que je vous adresse ci-joint, et je les ai tracés tels que je les ai vus dans cette cruelle et trop horrible nuit.

L'Orient incendié, ce fut par un hazard que je n'ôse comprendre que je m'échappie au milieu des flammes, et que je fus reçu dans un canot qui se trouvoit engagé sous la voute du vaisseau, et n'ayant pu parvenir à bord du vaisseau du Général Villeneuve, je me rendis après son départ en ce lieu, d'où j'ai la douleur de vous transmettre d'aussi tristes détails.

Le Franklin, le Spartiate, le Tonnant, le Peuple Souverain, et le Conquérant ont été pris, amarinés, mâttés avec des mâts de hune, et ont fait route avec l'escadre ennemi, qui depuis le 30, a quitté cette côte, en laissant une division de quatre vaisseaux et deux frégates.

Le Mercure, l'Heureux, et le Guerrier, ont été incendiés par l'ennemi. Les deux premiers avoient échoués pendant le combat, et étoient crèvés quand l'ennemi les a amarinés.

Le Timoleon hors d'état de mettre à la voile, a été volontairement jetté à la côte par le Capitaine Trulet, et incendié, après avoir sauvé dans ses bateaux, et ceux qui lui ont été envoyés, tout son equipage.

Les deux frégates, l'Artémise et la Sérieuse ont été perdues, sans que l'ennemi en put profiter : la première a été brûlée ; l'autre coulée.

Les seules restes de cette déplorable armée se reduisent

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donc à la division de frégates, corvettes, et flutes, qui étoit mouillée à Alexandrie, et à celle du Général Villeneuve, qui par une manœuvre hardie, est échappée à l'ennemi. Vous verrez par mon précis que cette division est composée de deux vaisseaux, et de deux frégates, le Guillaume Tell, le Généreux, la Diane, et la Justice.

Placé par mon grade à la tête de notre malheureuse armée, qui reste en lieu, l'Amiral Nelson m'a proposé la remise des blessés et autres prisonniers. De concert avec le Général Kleber, commandant la place, j'ai acquiescé à cette proposition, et trois-mille-cent prisonniers, dont 800 blessés, nous sont parvenus depuis le 17 Thermidor.

Par le moyen de cette communication, nous avons eu quelques apperçus sur toutes nos pertes personnelles : ma plume s'arrête en étant obligée à vous tracer ces malheurs.

L'Amiral, les Chefs de Division, Casa-Bianca, Thevenan, du Petit Thouars ont péri : six autres officiers commandants, dont les noms sont ci-joints, ont été dangéreusement blessés. Je n'ai pu jusqu'à ce jour me procurer un état exact des hommes morts et blessés, par le refus que m'a fait l'Amiral Anglois, d'envoyer à terre les commissaires des vaisseaux pris, avec leurs rôles, ainsi que vous le verrez par la copie du cartel arrêté dans la rade de Bequiers, pour la remise des prisonniers que je joins à cette lettre.

Depuis notre affaire, les croiseurs ennemis sont maîtres de toute la côte, et ils interceptent toutes nos communications. Les jours derniers, ils ont arrêté le Chebeck, la Fortune, que l'Amiral avoit envoyé croiser sur Damiette. L'escadre Angloise, ainsi que j'ai eu l'honneur de vous dire plus haut, est partie, à ce qu'on dit,

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pour la Sicile, le 30 du mois dernier, et la division qu'elle a laissé en station sur les côtes, est composée de quatre vaisseaux de 74 et deux frégates.

Par le soin qu'ont toujours les Anglois de cacher leurs pertes intérieures, nous n'avons eu aucune donnée certain sur celles qu'ils ont éprouvées. On nous assure cependant, que l'Amiral Nelson a été blessés dangéreusement à la tête ; que deux Capitaines ont été tués, et on cite enfin, deux vaisseaux, le Majestic, et le Bellerophon, comme ayant eu 300 hommes hors de combat.

Dans la disposition où nous sommes, bloqués par des forces ennemis trop supérieures, j'ignore encore, Citoyen Ministre, quel sera le parti que nous pourrons tirer du foibles moyens maritimes qui restent en ce port ; mais si je dois vous dire la vérité, telle que je la sens, c'est qu'après un aussi grand désastre, je pense qu'il n'y a plus que la paix qui puisse consolider l'établissement de notre nouvelle colonie. Puissent nos governeurs nous la procurer solide et honorable.

Je suis avec respect,

GANTEAUME.

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TRANSLATION.

Alexandria, August 23d.

Rear Admiral GANTEAUME,* *to General* BRUIX, *Minister of the Marine, and of the Colonies.*

Citizen Minister,

OBLIGED to give you an account of the most fatal of disasters, it is with piercing and heart-felt sorrow, that I acquit myself of this melancholy part of my duty.

* Our last was from a spectator on shore. We now present our readers (and we do it with great satisfaction) with a narrative of the engagement; from one who was an actor in it; from one who might have said with Æneas,

——— quæque ipse miserrima vidi,
Et quorum pars magna fui!

from Ganteaume, in short, Rear Admiral of the fleet, who was on board the l'Orient during the action—which he describes with the precision of a seaman, and the feelings of a patriot.

These dispatches are addressed to Bruix. They are confidential, and such as would certainly have never transpired, but for the event which threw them into our hands. If this correspondence reach the minister of marine (which we have no doubt but it will) he may still profit by it. We have given it with fidelity.

We think these two papers give the fullest account of the glorious event of the first of August, that has yet appeared. It should be observed, however, that the letters from our fleet were all on board the Leander; and, as we have already observed, were destroyed by her gallant commander, previous to striking.—We are not, indeed, without a portion of information

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Eleven sail of the line taken, burnt, and lost for France, our best officers killed or wounded, the coasts of our new colony laid open to the invasion of the enemy; such are the dreadful results of an engagement which took place on the night of the 1st instant, between our fleet and that of the English under the command of Admiral Nelson.

From the experience which you have had, Citizen Minister, in our ports during the course of this war, it will doubtless be easy for you to judge, whether the crews of a fleet so hastily fitted out as ours, could be reasonably expected to be well composed; and whether we could hope to find amongst men collected at random as it were, almost at the very instant of our departure, able mariners, and skilful and experienced cannoneers. The favourable season, however, the care and attention of the officers, and, perhaps, a certain portion of good luck, seconded the progress of the fleet so effectually, that, together with its convoy, it reached the coast of Egypt without any accident whatever.

The Admiral has most assuredly informed you that on our arrival at Alexandria, we learned that an English squadron of 14 sail had been there three days before us. It would have been the most prudent step perhaps, to have quitted the coast the moment the descent had been effected; but the Admiral, who waited for the orders* of the Commander in Chief (whose army naturally de-

on the subject; but still it is flattering to see a brave and able officer, (for such Ganteaume is,) bearing testimony in his official documents, to the superior courage and skill of our intrepid countrymen.

* If we wanted any additional proofs of the falsehood of Bonaparte, this paper would furnish it. To injure the reputation of

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rived a great degree of confidence from the presence of the squadron) did not think himself justified in quitting the coast, but took, on the contrary, a strong position in the anchoring ground of Bequiers.

This road by its proximity to Rosetta, enabled him to receive on board the necessary supplies for the fleet; and to replace, though with infinite risks and pains, some part of the water that was daily consumed on board. It was therefore, unfortunately determined to moor the fleet in one line, in an open situation, and which could not be protected from the shore.

Fatal intelligence received from time to time by neutral vessels, announced the return of the enemy's squadron. It had been seen off the Isle of Candia, steering to the westward. The conduct of this fleet, which, though superior to ours, had not waited for us before Alexandria, but made sail to the west, while we were effecting our disembarkation, which it might easily have thwarted or prevented, unhappily confirmed us in the opinion that it had no orders to attack us, and produced a boundless and fatal security.

Brueys, and to insult his ashes, he asserts, as we have already seen (No. III.), that this unfortunate Admiral detained the fleet on the coast of Egypt contrary to his wishes; and here we have Ganteaume, Commander in Chief of all the French Naval forces in Egypt, expressly declaring, in direct contradiction to the assertion, that Brueys only remained on the coast because Bonaparte would not permit him to depart!

We have given our opinion on this subject (No. III.), and probably said more than enough there to convince the blindest of Bonaparte's admirers, that he is deficient in one quality at least, of a great man; but we could not resist the temptation of making "assurance doubly sure," and establishing his character beyond all possibility of future doubt, by the unsuspected evidence of his warmest friend.

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On the 21st of July, however, two of the enemy's frigates * reconnoitred us, and on the 31st, about two in the afternoon, their whole fleet hove in sight. It was composed of 14 sail of the line, and two brigs. the wind was northerly and rather fresh. They bore

* Sir John Sinclair, who has taken his ideas of ships in the Mediterranean from flies in a milk-pot, ducks in a pond, or gilt boats and streamers in a garden canal, very properly reprehends Mr. Pitt for not having made the victory more complete, by causing all the ships which were in quest of Lord Nelson, to find him! And true it is, that if these two frigates, and two or three more that were on the look out for the Admiral, had joined him previous to the engagement, they might have rendered him some service. But the worst is yet to come: for we can seriously assure Sir John, that if these vessels had not previously found the French fleet (for which their captains shall be broke when he is first Lord of the Admiralty) while they were searching for ours, the victory would have been as complete as heart could wish, not a vessel, not a man would have escaped! It was these and other frigates which afterwards appeared that alarmed the enemy, and occasioned all those measures of precaution and security which we find they took; and for which, if Sir John will be pleased to compare the various dates of this and the following dispatch, he will see they had sufficient time.

Notwithstanding all this, however, we are not inclined to be very angry with the ships in question. It is thought by many that their captains possess full as much nautical skill as Sir John Sinclair, and nearly as much promptitude and zeal for the service of their country; this we confess, is also our opinion, and when we see SUCH MEN anxiously and ardently engaged on an element which no human power can controul, and in a service which no human abilities can effect at will, we are ready to conclude that something more than a knowledge of agriculture is required to enable us to judge of their merits, and something better than an itch of finding fault, to justify an attack on the plans of the minister who employs them!

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down with a press of sail on our fleet, and clearly announced a design to attack us.

The measures which the Admiral took on this occasion, the resolution to engage at anchor, and the results of this horrible affair, are detailed in the abstract,* which I have subjoined to the present letter; in that, I have delineated every circumstance as it appeared to me on this too grievous, and too dreadful night.

The L'Orient took fire. It was by an accident which I cannot yet comprehend, that I escaped from the midst of the flames, and was taken into a yawl that was lying under the ship's counter. Not being able to reach the vessel of General Villeneuve, I made for this place, from whence I have now the mortification of transmitting you these melancholy details.

The Franklin, the Spartiate, the Tonnant, the Peuple Souverain, and the Conquérant are taken. They got their top-masts up, and sailed with the enemy's squadron, which quitted the coast on the 18th of August; leaving here a small division of four ships of the line and two frigates.

The Mercure, the Heureux, and the Guerrier have been burnt by the enemy. The two first ran aground during the action, and were bulged when they took possession of them.

The Timoleon, incapable of making her escape, was run on shore by Captain Trulet, who set her on fire, after putting all the crew either into his own boats, or into those which were sent him from the rest of the fleet.

The two frigates, the Artémise and the Sérieuse were

* It follows this letter.

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destroyed, in spite of the enemy's endeavours to preserve them; the first was burnt, and the other sunk.

The sole relicks then of this unfortunate armament are comprised in the division of frigates, corvets, and flûtes, which are now at Alexandria, and in that of General Villeneuve, who, by a bold manœuvre,* made his escape from the enemy. You will see by my Abstract, that this latter division is composed of two ships of the line and two frigates,—the Guillaume Tell, the Genereux, the Diane, and the Justice.

Placed by my rank at the head of that part of our unfortunate armament which remains here, Admiral Nelson proposed to me to receive the wounded, and other prisoners. In concert with General Kleber, commandant of the town, I have acquiesced in his proposition; and three thousand one hundred prisoners, of whom about 800 are wounded, have been put on shore since the 6th of August.

By means of this correspondence we have collected some information respecting our personal losses. My pen trembles in my hand while, in conformity to my duty, I attempt to particularize our misfortunes.

The Admiral, the Chiefs of Division, Casa-Bianca, Thevenard, Du Petit Thouars, are killed, and six other superior officers, whose names are subjoined,† dangerously wounded. I have not yet been able to procure an exact list of the privates killed and wounded, on account of Admiral Nelson's refusing to send me the Commissaries of the captured vessels, with their *rôles d'équipage*.

* Genteaume does Villeneuve too much credit: the merit of the escape (such as it is) is due to another person.

† These names do not appear; they were, probably, omitted in the hurry of making up the dispatches.

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Since the action the enemy's cruizers are masters of the whole coast, and interrupt all our communications. The other day they captured the Fortune, a corvet which the Admiral had sent to cruize off Damietta. The English squadron, as I had the honour of mentioning to you above, sailed (it is said) for Sicily on the 18th instant. The division which is stationed here, consists of four seventy-fours and two frigates.

On account of the extraordinary care which the English always take to conceal their loss of men, we have been able to procure no information on the subject that can be relied on. We are assured, however, that Admiral Nelson is dangerously wounded in the head, and that two captains are killed. We are also told, that two of their ships, the Majestic and the Bellerophon, had each 150 men killed and wounded.

In the situation in which we are, blocked up by a very superior force, I am still ignorant, Citizen Minister, what measures we shall pursue with the feeble maritime resources that yet remain to us in this port; but if I must needs speak the truth, such as it really appears to me, I then say that, after so dreadful a disaster, I CONCEIVE NOTHING BUT A PEACE CAN CONSOLIDATE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF OUR NEW COLONY. MAY OUR GOVERNORS PROCURE US A SOLID AND HONOURABLE ONE!

I am, with respect,

GANTEAUME.

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No. XXII.

Alexandrie, le 18 *Thermidor.*

Précis du Combat entre l'Armée Navale Françoise, et celle Britannique, aux ordres du Contre Amiral NELSON, *et dans la soirée et nuit du* 14 *au* 15 *Thermidor, an* 6.

A DEUX heures du soir le vaisseau l'*Heureux* signala 12 voiles à l'O.N.O. Nos vigies les apperçurent en même tems, et en comptèrent successivement jusqu'à 16. On ne tarde pas à reconnoître ces bâtiments pour une escadre Angloise composée de 14 vaisseaux, et 2 bricks.

Les ennemis faisant route, forçant de voiles pour le mouillage de l'armée, ayant un brick à sonder devant. Le vent étoit au nord, joli frais.

Les bricks l'Alceste et le Railleur avoient eu ordre de mettre sous voile, et de se lever au vent, pour empêcher la manœuvre de cette mouche.

Les signaux de branle bas, et de se preparer au combat, prevenir l'armée qu'elle combattra à l'ancre, rappeller les équipages à leurs bords respectifs, avoient eu lieu à trois heures.

Les chaloupes qui étoient à l'aiguade avoient également été rappellées; un canot de l'*Artémise* avoit été détaché sur les bancs de Rosette, pour prevenir les transports qui y étoient mouillés, de l'apparition de l'ennemi; et enfin, les frégates et les corvettes avoient eu ordre de verser leurs équipages sur les vaisseaux.

L'escadre ennemi continuoit de s'avancer sur toutes voiles, après avoir donné un grand tour aux brisans qui bordent

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l'isle: elle avoit tenu le vent diminué de voiles, et annonçoit le dessein d'attaquer notre armée.

A cinq heures trois-quarts la batterie de l'islot avoit jetté quelques bombes qui portoient sur les vaisseaux de tête de la ligne ennemie. A six heures moins quelques minutes, le Général avoit fait le signal de commencer le combat, et peu de tems après, le deux avant gardes se cannonoient.

Plusieurs vaisseaux ennemis ayant diminué tout-à-coup de voiles, avoient doublé la tête de notre ligne, et mouillant leurs ancres avec le cable par derrière, avoient élongé en draguant notre ligne du côté de terre, tandis que les autres mouilloient à portée de pistolet, de l'autre bord: par cette manœuvre tous nos vaisseaux, jusqu'au *Tonnant* se trouvèrent envelloppés.

Il nous parut que deux vaisseaux, en exécutant cette manœuvre, avoient échoués; mais l'un d'eux ne tarda pas à se retirer.

L'attaque et la défense furent extrêment vives: tous les vaisseaux de tête, jusqu'à notre matelot derrière, étoient pris des deux bords, et souvent par la hanche. Dans ce désordre et envelloppé d'un nuage continuel de fumée, il eut été difficile de distinguer les mouvemens de la ligne.

Au commencement de l'action, l'Amiral, tous les officiers majors, le commissaire ordonnateur, et un vingtaine de timoniers ou autres transports se trouvoient sur la dunette, occupées à la mousquetterie. Tous les soldats, les hommes mêmes de la manœuvre étoient descendus aux batteries par ordre de l'Amiral, à celle de douze il manquoit plus de la moitié de son équipage.

Après une heure d'action le Général fut blessé à la figure et à la main, et étant descendu à la dunette, il fut renversé, et tué quelque tems après sur le gaillard derrière.

Obligé de continuer à nous battre des deux bords, on avoit abandonné la batterée de douze, mais celles de 24 et de 36 continuoient leur feu avec la plus grande ardeur. Le

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Franklin et le *Tonnant* nous paroissoient être dans une position aussi critique que la notre.

Les vaisseaux ennemis ayant exterminé nos vaisseux de tête, se laissoient dériver en draguant, et prenoient divers positions autour de nous. Nous - - - par la tête, obligé à filer divers fois du cable ou du grelin, pour leur présenter le travers.

Un vaisseau cependant ennemi nous combattant par stribord, et presque à toucher, avoit déjà été demâté de tout mât, et ne tirant plus, avoit coupé son cable pour se retirer du feu, mais obligé à nous défendre contre deux autres qui nous foudroyoient par la hanche de babord, et de bossoir de stribord, on avoit été obligé de refiler du cable.

La défense des batterées de 24 et 36, continuoit avec vivacité, quand le feu se manifesta sur la dunette par une explosion : nous avions déjà eu le feu dans un bateau, et ayant fait couper l'ancre, nous nous en étions préservées. Un hamac et des débris enflammés avoient également été jettés à la mer : à cette troisième fois le feu avoit fait dans un instant des progrès rapides et dévorans parmi tous les débris dont la dunette étoit couverte. Les pompes d'incendie avoient été brisées par les boulets ; les bailles, et les scéaux renversés.

L'ordre de cesser le feu des batteries, pour que tout le monde se porte à faire passer de l'eau, avoit été donné ; mais l'ardeur étoit telle que, dans le tumulte, la batterie de 36 continuoit son feu. Quoique tous les officiers ordonnassent de faire monter tout le monde en haut, l'incendie avoit fait en peu de tems du progrès désesperant, et nous avions peu de moyens à lui opposer.

Notre grand mât et celui d'artimon étoient tombés, et bientôt nous ne vimes plus de salut pour le vaisseau ; le feu ayant gagné tout le gaillard derrière et même la batterie de douze.

Le Capitaine du vaisseau, et son second étoient blessés de-

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puis quelque tems. Le Général Ganteaume alors donne l'ordre d'ouvrir les robinets et d'abandonner le vaisseau.

Le feu avoit pris à environ dix heures moins un quart, et à dix et demie le vaisseau sauta en l'air, quoiqu'on ait eu la précaution d'ouvrir les robinets. Partie de l'équipage se sauva sur les débris, et d'autres y périrent.

Le combat continua toute la nuit à l'arrière garde, et au jour nous distinguames que le *Guerrier*, le *Conquérant*, le *Spartiate*, l'*Aquillon*, le *Peuple Souverain*, et le *Franklin* avoient amené et s'étoient rendus à l'ennemi; le *Tonnant* démâté de tous mâts étoit à queue, son pavillon haut; l'*Heureux* et le *Mércure* échoués furent combattus et forcés d'amener dans la matinée; l'*Artémise* brûloit à huit heures du matin, et la *Sérieuse* étoit coulée par le travers du vaisseau de tête.

Le *Guillaume Tell*, le *Genereux*, le *Timoleon*, la *Diane*, et la *Justice*, leurs pavillons haut, se cannonèrent avec quelques vaisseaux Anglois une partie de la matinée; mais cette division, à l'exception du *Timoleon*, mit à la voile à 10 ou 11 heures du matin et poussa au large.

Le *Timoleon* se jetta sur la côte, et nous avons appris depuis, que le capitaine, après avoir sauvé tout son équipage, incendia, le 16 au matin, ce vaisseau pour empêcher qu'il ne devint la proie de l'ennemi.

Tels ont été les résultats de cette horrible affaire, et nous les avons tracés tels qu'ils se sont présentés à notre mémoire, n'ayant pû conserver aucun papier ni note écrite.

Le Contre Amiral GANTEAUME.

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TRANSLATION.

Alexandria, August 5th.

Abstract of the Engagement which took place on the night of the first of August, between the French Fleet, and that of Great Britain, under the command of Rear Admiral NELSON.

AT two in the afternoon, the Heureux threw out a signal of 12 sail in the W.N.W. Our men on the look out, discovered them at the same time, and counted successively as many as 16. We were not long in recognizing these vessels to be an English squadron, composed of 14 sail of the line and two brigs.

The enemy steered for our anchoring ground, with a press of sail; having a brig sounding a head. The wind was N. and rather fresh.

The two brigs, the Alceste and the Railleur, were immediately ordered to make sail to windward, to prevent the enemy's light vessel from continuing her soundings.

The signals for stowing the hammocks, and making ready for fight; for announcing the resolution of engaging at anchor; and for recalling the men on board their respective ships, were all made at three.

The long boats employed in watering were also recalled: a boat was hastily dispatched from the Artémise to the shoals of Rosetta, to acquaint the transports there with the appearance of the enemy; and finally, the frigates and corvettes were ordered to send as many of their men as possible on board the ships of the line.

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The enemy's squadron continued to advance with a press of sail; after standing off to a considerable distance, to avoid the breakers on the island,* it hauled its wind, shortened sail, and clearly manifested a design to attack us.

At three quarters after five, the battery on the little island threw some bombs, which fell into the van of the enemy's line. At 6, the Admiral threw out the signal for commencing the engagement, and shortly after, the two headmost ships began firing.

Several of the enemy's vessels having suddenly shortened sail, had turned the head of our line, and letting go their anchors, with a cable astern, had ranged along side, between us and the land; while others had moored themselves within pistol-shot of us, on the other side! By this manœuvre, all our vessels, as far down as the Tonnant, found themselves completely envelloped, and placed between two fires.

It appeared to us that in executing this manœuvre, two of their vessels had run aground: one of them, however, was immediately got off.

The attack and the defence were extremely brisk. The whole of our van was attacked on both sides, and sometimes raked. In this disorder, and involved as we were in continual clouds of smoke, it was extremely difficult to distinguish the different movements of the line.

At the beginning of the action, the admiral, all the superior officers, the first commissary, and about twenty pilots, and masters of transports, were on the poop of the ship,† employed in serving the musquetry. All the soldiers, and sailors, were ordered to the guns on the main and lower decks: the twelve pounders were not half-manned.

After the action had lasted about an hour, the Admiral was wounded in the body, and in the hand; he then came

* See the Charts.

† The l'Orient.

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down from the poop, and a short time after, was killed on the quarter-deck.

Obliged to defend ourselves on both sides, we gave up the twelve pounders; but the twenty-fours, and thirty-six's kept up their fire with all possible ardour. The Franklin and the Tonnant appeared to be in as critical a situation as ourselves.

The English having utterly destroyed our van,* suffered their ships to drift forward, still ranging along our line, and taking their different stations around us: while we (*MS. illegible*) van cut off, were frequently obliged to veer away our cable, or our hawser, to enable us to present our broadside to the enemy.

One of their ships, however, which lay close to us on the starboard side totally dismasted, ceased her fire, and cut her cable, to get out of the reach of our guns: but obliged to defend ourselves against two others who were furiously thun-

* We take the opportunity of this passage to make a few observations.

It has been said in the French papers, and repeated in our ears *usque ad nauseam*, that the fate of the day was undecided when the l'Orient took fire; and questions have been gravely put by the opposition writers, and still more gravely debated, as to the probable consequences of the engagement, if that accident had not taken place.

These patriotic gentlemen, however, may now close their well-meant discussions: we have it, happily, in our power to decide the question for ever, by such authority, as they neither can nor will, we believe, be inclined to dispute. We have the authentic and irrefragable testimony of Admiral Ganteaume, that the van of the French fleet was in our hands before that event took place: and we have, secondly, THE EXPRESS AUTHORITY OF CAPT. BERRY for saying that SIX of their ships had struck before the l'Orient was perceived to be on fire; and that not only HE, BUT EVERY OTHER OFFICER, WHO WAS IN A SITUATION OF JUDGING, IS PERSUADED THAT THE L'ORIENT HERSELF HAD PREVIOUSLY STRUCK TO THE BRITISH FLAG!

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dering upon us, on the larboard quarter, and on the starboard bow, we were again compelled to heave in some of our cable.

The 36 and 24 pounders were still firing briskly, when an explosion took place on the aft of the quarter-deck. We had already had a boat on fire; but we had cut it away, and so avoided the danger. We had also thrown a hammock, and some other things, which were in flames, over board, but this third time, the fire spread so rapidly and instantaneously amongst the fragments of every kind, with which the poop was incumbered, that all was soon in flames. The fire pumps had been dashed to pieces by the enemy's balls, and the tubs and buckets rendered useless.

An order was given to cease firing, that all hands might be at liberty to bring water; but such was the ardour of the moment, that in the tumult, the guns of the main-deck still continued their fire. Although the officers had called all the people between decks, aloft, the flames had in a very short time, made a most alarming progress, and we had but few means in our power of checking them.

Our main and mizen masts were both carried away; and we soon saw that there was no saving the ship; the fire having already gained the poop, and even the battery on the quarter-deck.

The captain and second captain had been wounded some time before. General Ganteaume therefore took upon himself the command, and ordered the scuttles to be opened, and every body to quit the ship.

The fire broke out about a quarter before ten, and at half after ten the ship blew up, although we had taken the precaution to open all the water-courses. Some of the crew saved themselves on the wreck; the rest perished.

The action continued all the night with the ships in the rear, and at break of day, we discovered that the Guerrier, the Conquérant, the Spartiate, the Aquillon, the Peuple

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Souverain, and the Franklin had hauled down their colours, and were in the possession of the enemy. The Timoleon, with all her masts gone, was dropt astern of the fleet, her colours still flying. The Heureux and the Mercure which had run aground were attaked, and obliged to strike in the morning. The Artémise was set on fire at 8 o'clock, and the Sérieuse sunk.

The Guillaume Tell, the Genereux, the Timoleon, the Diana, and the Justice, with their colours still flying, were engaged with some English vessels during a part of the morning, but this division, with the exception of the Timoleon, set their sails, about 11 o'clock, and stood off to sea.

The Timoleon ran ashore; and we have since heard, that the Captain, after landing all his men, set her on fire the next morning, to prevent her falling into the hands of the enemy.

Such are the results of this horrible affair; and we have detailed them as they presented themselves to our memory; not having been able to preserve a paper or note of any kind.

Rear Admiral GANTEAUME.

FINIS.

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APPENDIX.

No. I.

Translation of the Proclamation issued by BONAPARTE, *in the Arabic Language, on his landing in Egypt.*

IN the name of God, gracious and merciful.—There is no God but God; he has no son or associate in his kingdom.

The present moment, which is destined for the punishment of the Beys, has been long anxiously expected. The Beys, coming from the mountains of Georgia and Bajars, have desolated this beautiful country, long insulted and treated with contempt the French Nation, and oppressed her merchants in various ways. Bonaparte, the General of the French Republic, according to the principles of Liberty, is now arrived; and the Almighty, the Lord of both Worlds, has sealed the destruction of the Beys.

Inhabitants of Egypt! When the Beys tell you the French are come to destroy your religion, believe them not: it is an absolute falsehood. Answer those deceivers, that they are only come to rescue the rights of the poor from the hands of their tyrants, and that the French adore the Supreme Being, and honour the Prophet and his holy Koran.

All men are equal in the eyes of God: understanding, ingenuity, and science, alone make a difference between them: as the Beys, therefore, do not possess any of these qualities, they cannot be worthy to govern the country.

Yet are they the only possessors of extensive tracts of land, beautiful female slaves, excellent horses, magnificent palaces! Have they then received an exclusive privilege

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from the Almighty? If so, let them produce it. But the Supreme Being, who is just and merciful towards all mankind, wills that in future none of the inhabitants of Egypt shall be prevented from attaining to the first employments and the highest honours.—The Administration, which shall be conducted by persons of intelligence, talents, and foresight, will be productive of happiness and security. The tyranny and avarice of the Beys have laid waste Egypt, which was formerly so populous and well cultivated.

The French are true Mussulmen. Not long since they marched to Rome, and overthrew the Throne of the Pope, who excited the Christians against the professors of Islamism (the Mahometan religion). Afterwards they directed their course to Malta, and drove out the unbelievers, who imagined they were appointed by God to make war on the Mussulmen. The French have at all times been the true and sincere friends of the Ottoman Emperors, and the enemies of their enemies. May the Empire of the Sultan therefore be eternal; but may the Beys of Egypt, our opposers, whose insatiable avarice has continually excited disobedience and insubordination, be trodden in the dust, and annihilated!

Our friendship shall be extended to those of the inhabitants of Egypt who shall join us, as also to those who shall remain in their dwellings, and observe a strict neutrality; and when they have seen our conduct with their own eyes, hasten to submit to us; but the dreadful punishment of death awaits those who shall take up arms for the Beys, and against us. For then there shall be no deliverance, nor shall any trace of them remain.

Art. 1. All places which shall be three leagues distant from the route of the French army, shall send one of their principal inhabitants to the French General, to declare that they submit, and will hoist the French flag, which is blue, white, and red.

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Art. 2. Every village which shall oppose the French army shall be burned to the ground.

Art. 3. Every village which shall submit to the French, shall hoist the French flag, and that of the Sublime Porte, their Ally, whose duration be eternal.

Art. 4. The Cheiks and principal persons of each town and village shall seal up the houses and effects of the Beys, and take care that not the smallest article shall be lost.

Art. 5. The Cheiks, Cadis, and Imans, shall continue to exercise their respective functions; aud put up their prayers, and perform the exercise of religious worship in the mosques and houses of prayer. All the inhabitants of Egypt shall offer up thanks to the Supreme Being, and put up public prayers for the destruction of the Beys.

May the Supreme God make the glory of the Sultan of the Ottomans eternal, pour forth his wrath on the Mameloucs, and render glorious the destiny of the Egyptian Nation.

No. II.

Proclamation of BONAPARTE, *Member of the National Institute, and Commander in Chief, dated on Board L'Orient, June 22.*

Soldiers,

You are going to undertake a conquest, the effects of which upon commerce and civilization will be incalculable.

You will give the English a most sensible blow, which will be followed up with their destruction.

We shall have some fatiguing marches—we shall fight several battles—we shall succeed in all our enterprizes. The Destinies are in our favour.

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The Mamelouc Beys, who favour the English commerce exclusively, who have injured our merchants, and who tyrannize over the unhappy inhabitants of the banks of the Nile, will no longer exist in a few days after our arrival.

The people, among whom you are going to live, are Mahometans. The first article of their faith is, 'There is no other God but God, and Mahomet is his Prophet.' Do not contradict them. Act with them as you did with the Jews and with the Italians. Treat their Muftis and their Imans with respect, as you did the Rabbis and the Bishops. You must act with the same spirit of toleration towards the ceremonies prescribed by the Alcoran, that you did to the Synagogues and the Convents, to the religions of Moses and of Jesus Christ.

The Roman legions protected all religions. You will find here customs which differ from those of Europe; you must accustom yourselves to them.

The people among whom we are going treat women differently from us; but in every country he who violates them is a monster!

Pillage enriches but a very few men; it dishonours us, it destroys our resources, and it renders these people our enemies, whom it is our interest to have for friends.

The first city we shall arrive at was built by Alexander, and every step we take we shall meet with objects capable of exciting emulation.

(Signed) BONAPARTE.

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No. III.

GENERAL ORDERS.

BONAPARTE, *Member of the National Institute, Commander in Chief.*

Head Quarters, on Board L'Orient, 24th June.

Article 1.

THE Generals who shall command any detached divisions shall order the Commissaries at war, the Paymaster of the Division, an Officer of the Staff, and a *Cheik* of the country, to seal up the public treasures, and the houses and registers of the revenue collectors of the Mameloucs.

2. All the Mameloucs shall be arrested, and brought to the head quarters of the army.

3. All the towns and villages shall be disarmed.

4. All the horses shall be put in requisition, and shall be delivered to the Chiefs of Cavalry Brigades, who shall immediately cause the soldiers to be mounted; for that purpose they carry bridles and saddles with them. Officers, of whatever rank, are forbidden to take any horses till the cavalry are all mounted. The men are forbidden to change their horses.

5. All horses fit for the Artillery shall be delivered to the Commander of the Artillery of the Division, who will have harness and drivers ready.

6. The camels shall be hired and placed under the direction of the Commander of the Artillery. Those which shall be taken from the Mameloucs, or which shall be taken from the enemy, shall be employed in transporting the artillery and ammunition, so as to diminish as much as possible the number of ammunition waggons. There shall be one camel in each division, at the disposition of the Officer of Engineers, to carry the instruments of the Pioneers.

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7. Every battalion shall have two camels to carry their baggage. The chief of Brigade and the Quarter Master shall have one camel to carry the military chest and the registers of the corps; but they are not to have camels till the Artillery are supplied.

8. The Commanders of Artillery and of Cavalry shall give receipts to the Commissaries at War for the camels, horses, &c. which they shall receive.

9. The Commissaries at War shall send an account of the state of the camels to the Chief Commissary; the Chief of Brigade of Cavalry shall send an account to General Dugua; and the Adjutant-General to the Staff.

10. The horses and camels taken from the enemy after a battle, and after having killed the person who was on it, shall be paid for in the following proportion; that is to say, 4 louis d'ors for a horse, and six for a camel. The General of Artillery, and the Quarter-Master-General, shall pay for those which are delivered to their respective corps.

11. When all the Cavalry is mounted, the horses are to be sent to General Dugua, and the camels to the park of artillery.

12. Every soldier who shall enter into the houses of the inhabitants to steal horses or camels, shall be punished.

(Signed) BONAPARTE.

By order of the Commander in Chief,

ALEX. BERTHIER.

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No. IV.

Head Quarters, on Board the L'Orient, June 28th.

BONAPARTE, *Member of the National Institute, Commander in Chief.*

ORDERS.

Article 1.

THE Admiral shall have the police of the coasts, and the ports of the countries which shall be occupied by the army. All the regulations which he shall make, and the orders which he shall give, shall be put in execution.

Art. 2. The ports of Malta and Alexandria shall be organized, conformably to the Admiral's regulation, as well as those of Corfou and Damietta.

Art. 3. Citizen Le Roy shall take upon him the office of Commissary at Alexandria; and Citizen Vavasseur that of Superintendant of the Artillery.

Art. 4. The Agents of the Administration of the ports and roads of the countries occupied by the army, shall correspond with the Commissary, Le Roy; from whom they shall immediately receive their orders.

Art. 5. All the naval stores found in the conquered countries shall be secured in the magazines of the different ports.

Art. 6. All the sailors under thirty years of age shall be put in requisition for the fleet.

(Signed) BONAPARTE.

A true copy.

JAUBERT.

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No. V.

LIBERTE'. E'GALITE'.

ARME'E D'ANGLETERRE.

Au Quartier-Général de Malte le 25 Prairial, an 6 de la République Française.

E'TAT-MAJOR-GE'NE'RAL.

ORDRE DU GE'NE'RAL EN CHEF.

ARTICLE PREMIER.

DANS l'Eglise qui appartient aux Grecs, les Prêtres Latins ne pourront pas y officier.

II. Les Messes que les Prêtres Latins ont coutume de dire dans les Eglises Grecques, seront dites dans les autres Eglises de la Place.

III. Il sera accordé protection aux Juifs qui voudroient y établier leur Synagogue.

IV. Le Général Commandant remerciera les Grecs de la bonne conduite qu'ils ont tenue pendant le Siège.

V. Tous les Grecs des Isles de Malte et de Gozo, et ceux des Départemens d'Ithaque, Corcyre, et de la Mer-Egée, qui conserveroient des relations quelconques avec la Russie, seront condamnés à mort.

VI. Tous les Navires Grecs qui naviguent sous le Pavillon Russe, s'ils sont pris par les Bâtiments Français, seront coulés bas.

Signé BONAPARTE.

Pour Copie conforme.

Le Général de Division Chef de l'Etat-Major-Général,

Signé ALEXANDRE BERTHIER.

Pour Copie conforme.

Le Général de Division,

Signé CHABOT.

De l'Imprimerie Nationale de Corcyre.

Ε'ΛΕΥΘΕΡΙ'Α. Ι'ΣΟ'ΤΗΣ.

ΣΤΡΑΤΟ'Σ ΤΗ'Σ Α'ΓΓΛΙ'ΑΣ.

Εἰς Τὸ Γενικὸν Καρτιὲρ τῆς Μάλλας ἰαῖς 25 Γεωπόνε χρόν. ὁ τῆς Γαλλικῆς Πολιτείας.

ΣΤΑ'ΤΟ ΜΑΓΓΙΟ'Ρ ΓΕΝΙΚΟ'Ν.

ΠΡΟ'ΣΤΑΓΜΑ ΤΟΥ̃ ΑΡΧΙΣΤΡΑΤΗ ΓΟΥ̃.

Α'ρθρον Πρῶτον.

Οἱ Πρεσβύται Λατῖνοι δὲν ἠμπορεῖ πλέον νὰ ἱερεργῶν εἰς ἰαῖς Ε'κκλησίαις, ὁπῦ ἀπαρθενεύει τῶν Γραικῶν.

Δευτερον. Η' Λειτεργίαις, ὁπῦ συηθίζει οἱ Πρεσβύται τῶν Λατίνων νὰ ψάλλει εἰς ἰαῖς Ε'κκλησίαις τῶν Γραικῶν, θέλει λέγοιται εἰς ἰαῖς ἄλλαις Ε'κκλησίαις τῦ Τόπυ.

Τρῖτον. Θέλει δωθεῖ προσασία τῶν Ε'βραίων, ὁπῦ ἤθελαν νὰ συτήσου τὴν Συναγωγήλες.

Τέταρτον. Ο' Στρατηγὸς Ε'ξουσιας θέλει εὐχαριτήσει τὺς Γραικὺς, ὁπῦ κατοικῦν εἰς τὴν Μάλταν, διὰ τὴν καλὴν διαγωγὴν ὁπῦ ἐμπαιχειρίσθησαν ἐν ὅλῳ τῷ καιρῷ τῆς πολιορκίας.

Πέμπτον. Ο'λοι οἱ Γραικοὶ τῆς Νήσυ Μάλλας, καὶ Γόζας, καὶ ἐκεῖνοι τῶν Πολιτεμεριδίων τῆς Ι'θάκης, Κερκύρας, καὶ Αἰγαίυ Πελάγυς, ὁπῦ ἤθελε ἔχυν κάθε λογῆς ἀπαφορὰν μὲ τὴν Ρυσσίαν, θέλει παιδευθῦν διὰ θανάτυ.

Ε'κτον. Ο'λα τὰ Μπαγιμίνλα τῶν Γραικῶν, ὁπῦ ἰαξιδεύυν μὲ Ρ'υσσικὴν Σημαῖαν (Μπαντιέρα), ἐὰν πιασθῦν ἀπὸ τὰ Φραντζέζικα Καράβια, θέλει πατσυδιοθῦν.

Υ'ποζραμμέν.

ΜΠΟΝΑΠΑ'ΡΤΕΣ.

Ε'ξ ἀπαραλλάκλε Α'ντιζράφε

Ο' Στρατηγὸς Τῆς Διαιρέσεως, Α'γχιζῦς τῦ Στάϊε Μαζζιόρε Γενικῦ,

Υ'ποζραμμέν.

Α'ΛΕΞΑΝΔΡΟΣ ΜΠΕΡΤΙΕ'.

Ε'ξ ἀπαραλλάκλε Α'ντιζράφε

Ο' Στρατηγὸς Τῆς Διαιρέσεως

Υ'πογραμμέν.

ΣΑΜΠΟ'.

Α'πὸ τὴν Τῦ Γένυς Τυπογραφίαν ἐν Κερκύρᾳ.

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LIBERTA. EGUAGLIANZA.

ARMATA D'INGHILTERRA.

Al Quartier Generale di Malta li 25 Pratile, Anno 6 della Repubblica Francese.

STATO MAGGIORE GENERALE.

ORDINE DEL GENERALE IN CAPO.

ARTICOLO PRIMO.

NELLE Chiese, che appartengono ai Greci, i Preti Latini non potranno più officiarvi.

II. Le Messe, che i Preti Latini costumano di dire nelle Chiese Greche, saranno dette nelle altre Chiese della Piazza.

III. Sarà accordata protezione agli Ebrei, che volessero stabilirvi la loro Sinagoga.

IV. Il General Comandante ringrazierà i Greci stabiliti a Malta, della buona condotta, che tennero durante l'Assedio.

V. Tutti i Greci delle Isole di Malta, e di Gozo, e quelli dei Dipartimenti d'Itaca, Corcira, e Mar Egeo, che conserveranno delle relazioni qualunque colla Russia saranno puniti di morte.

VI. Tutti i Bastimenti Greci, che navigano con Paviglione Russo, se sono presi dai Bastimenti Francesi, saranno colati a fondo.

Sotoscritto BONAPARTE.

Per Copia conforme.

Il General di Divisione Capo dello Stato Maggior Generale,

Sotoscritto

ALESSANDRO BERTHIER.

Per Copia conforme.

Il General di Divisione,

Sotoscritto CHABOT.

Dalla Stamperia Nazionale di Corcira.

(TRANSLATION.)

LIBERTY. EQUALITY.

ARMY OF ENGLAND.

Head Quarters at Malta, June 13th.

ETAT-MAJOR-GENERAL.

ORDERED BY THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF.

ARTICLE I.

NO Latin Priest shall officiate in any Church appropiated to the Greeks.

II. The Masses which the Latin Priests have been accustomed to say in the Greek Churches shall be said in the other Greek Churches of the Fort.

III. Protection shall be granted to the Jews who may be desirous of establishing their Synagogue there.

IV. The General Commandant shall thank the Greeks for their good conduct during the Siege.

V. All the Greeks of the Islands of Malta and Gozo, and those of the Departments of Ithaca, Corcyra, and of the Egean Sea, who shall maintain any connection whatever with Russia, shall be put to death !!!

VI. All the Greek vessels which sail under Russian colours, if they fall into the hands of the French, shall be sent to the bottom !!!

(Signed) BONAPARTE.

A true Copy.

The General of Division, and Chief of the Staff,

(Signed) ALEXANDER BERTHIER.

A true Copy.

The General of Division,

(Signed) CHABOT.

From the National Press at Corcyra. (Corfou.)

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No. VI.

Head Quarters, on Board the L'Orient, June 28th.

BONAPARTE, *Member of the National Institute.*

ORDERS.

Article 1.

THIS and the three following Articles relate solely to the disposition of the transports, and, therefore, are not translated.

Art. 5. All the French sailors on board the transport vessels, shall be taken for the service of the fleet. Egyptian sailors shall be taken for the transports.

Art. 6. All the vessels which shall return to Europe shall have no more hands on board than are absolutely necessary, of what nation soever they may be—the surplus shall be put on board the fleet.

(Signed) BONAPARTE.

A true copy.

JAUBERT.

No. VII.

Alexandria, July the 6th Year of the Republic One and Indivisible, the of the Month of Muharrem, the Year of the Hegira 1213.

BONAPARTE, *Member of the National Institute, Commander in Chief.*

FOR a long time the Beys, who govern Egypt, have insulted the French nation, and covered her merchants with injuries: the hour of their chastisement is come.

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For too long a time this rabble of slaves, purchased in Caucasus, and in Georgia, has tyrannized over the fairest part of the world; but God, on whom every thing depends, has decreed that their empire shall be no more.

People of Egypt! you will be told that I am come to destroy your religion: do not believe it. Reply, that I am come to restore your rights, to punish usurpators; and, that I reverence more than the Mameloucs themselves, God, his prophet Mahomet, and the Koran!

Tell them that all men are equal before God. Wisdom, talents, and virtue, are the only things which make a difference between them.

Now, what wisdom, what talents, what virtues, have the Mameloucs, that they should boast the exclusive possession of every thing that can render life agreeable?

If Egypt is their farm, let them shew the lease which God has given them of it! But God is just and merciful to the people.

All the Egyptians shall be appointed to all the public situations. The most wise, the most intelligent, and the most virtuous, shall govern; and the people shall be happy.

There were formerly among you great cities, great canals, and a great commerce. What has destroyed them all? What! but the avarice, the injustice, and the tyranny of the Mameloucs.

Cadis, Cheiks, Imans, Tchorbadgis! tell the people that we are the friends of the true Mussulmen. Is it not us, who have destroyed the Pope; who said that it was necessary to make war on Mussulmen! Is it not us, who have destroyed the Knights of Malta, because these madmen believed that it was the good pleasure of God, that they should make war on Mussulmen? Is it not us, who have been in all ages the friends of the Grand Seignior, (on whose desires be the blessing of God!) and the enemy of his enemies? And, on the contrary, have not the Mameloucs always re-

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volted against the authority of the Grand Seignior, which they refuse to recognize at this moment?

Thrice happy those who shall be with us! they shall prosper in their fortune and their rank. Happy those who shall be neutral! they shall have time to know us thoroughly, and they will range themselves on our side.

But woe, woe, woe, to those who shall take up arms in favour of the Mameloucs, and combat against us! There shall be no hope for them: they shall all perish.

(Signed) BONAPARTE.

A true copy.

(Signed) BERTHIER.

No. VIII.

A general Copy for the Executive Directors.

Head Quarters, Alexandria, July 3d.

BONAPARTE, *Member of the National Institute, Commander in Chief.*

ORDERS.

Article 1.

ALL the people of Alexandria, of what nation soever they may be, shall be obliged, twenty-four hours after the publication of the present Order, to depose, in a place marked out by the Commander of the town, all their fire-arms. The Muftis, the Imans, and the Cheiks, alone shall be permitted to keep their arms, and to bear them.

Art. 2. All the inhabitants of Alexandria, of what nation soever they may be, shall be obliged to wear the tri-

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coloured cockade. The Muftis alone shall have the privilege of wearing a tri-coloured shawl. The Commander in Chief, however, reserves to himself the right of granting the same favour to such of the Cheiks as shall distinguish themselves by their knowledge, their prudence, and their virtue.

Art. 3. The troops shall pay military honour to every one who, in consequence of the preceding article, shall wear a tri-coloured shawl; and whenever such persons shall visit the superior officer, or any of the constituted authorities, they shall be received with all the respect which is due to them.

Art. 4. Foreign Agents, to what power soever they may belong, are expressly prohibited from displaying their flags on their terrasses. The Consuls alone shall have the privilege of writing over their doors the nature of their employ: "CONSUL OF ———"

Art. 5. The present Order shall be translated, without delay, into Arabic, and communicated to the most distinguished inhabitants. The Cheriff shall have it proclaimed through the town, that every one may be obliged to conform to it.

(Signed) BONAPARTE.

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No. IX.

Army of England. } *Head Quarters, Cairo, July 27th.*

To Admiral BRUEYS.

I SEND you, Citizen Admiral, some Mamelouc prisoners, whose names are subjoined. You will have the goodness to receive them on board one of the ships of the squadron, and to send them to France by the first opportunity.

Health and fraternity.

ALEX. BERTHIER.

Names of the Mameloue Prisoners.

Hassan,	Mamelouc.	Ibrahim,	Mamelouc.
Hali,	id.	Murat,	id.
Murat,	id.	Soliman,	id.
Juseph,	id.	Hali,	id.
Acmet,	id.	Mahomet,	id.
Haly,	id.	Chahin,	id.

No. X.

Head Quarters, on board the L'Orient, July 1.

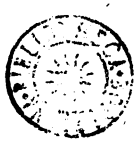
BONAPARTE, *Member of the National Institute, Commander in Chief, to the Commander of the Caravel, at Alexandria.*

THE Beys have loaded our merchants with exactions, and I am come to demand reparation.

I shall be at Alexandria to-morrow; but this ought not to alarm you. You are a subject of our great friend, the Sultan; conduct yourself accordingly; but if you commit the slightest act of hostility against the French army, I shall treat you as an enemy, and you will have no one to blame for it but yourself; for such a thing is far from my intention, and from my heart. Yours,

BONAPARTE.

FINIS.



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